PART II

ADMINISTRATION OF ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR

PART 2 - PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN AUSTRALIA

CHAPTER 1

NUMBERS AND CLASSES OF PW HELD

1. Prisoners of War held in Australia during and after hostilities may be grouped as follows :-

(a) German and Italian PW transferred from the Middle East.

(b) Italian PW transferred from India.

(c) German PW ex the "Kormoran".

(d) Enemy merchant seamen previously classified as internees.

(e) Japanese PW captured by the Australian Forces.

(f) Japanese PW captured by the American Forces in the South West Pacific Area and transferred to Australia for custody.

2. These groups are dealt with separately in the following paragraphs.

PW FROM THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. The Commonwealth Government originally agreed to accept custody, on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, of up to 50,000 PW from the Middle East. Shipments as shown in the schedule below were received, totalling just over 6,000 PW, but owing mainly to the non-availability of shipping, plans for transferring further numbers were revised and the Commonwealth's plans for custody and accommodation were accordingly curtailed.

SCHEDULE OF SHIPMENTS FROM MIDDLE EAST

		GERMAN PW		ITALIAN PW		
Shipment No.	Date of Arrival	Officers	O.R's	Officers	O.R's	Total
1	28 May 41	-	-	6	2,000	2,006
2	15 Aug 41	-	-	405	412	817
3.	23 Aug 41	47	936	2	15	1,000
4	13 Oct 41	11	-	110	879	1,000
5	15 Oct 41	-	51	25	923	999
6	15 Dec 41	9	41	13	167	230
	Total	67	1,028	561	4,396	6,052

4. In anticipation of preliminary shipments, action had been taken to provide accommodation for up to 9,000 PW in the undermentioned locations:-

Cowra, N.S.W.	CAPACITY
2 camps (tented), each to accommodate 1,000 OR's were erected for conversion later into permanent camps forming part of a group of four camps.	2,000

	CAPACITY
Hay, N.S.W.	
2 camps (Nos. 7 and 8) erected. United Kingdom internees held here were transferred to make room for expected PW.	2,000
Murchison, Victoria.	
3 tented camps erected for conversion later into permanent camps forming part of a group of four camps.	3,000
Loveday, South Australia.	
2 permanent camps not in use, each to be extended by tentage to accommodate 750 officers and 250 other ranks.	2,000
Total	9,000

5. In view of the reduced numbers received, it was not necessary to use the whole of the available accommodation. The Loveday group was reserved for internees, Cowra being used to house approximately 2,000 Italian OR's, Hay for 2,000 Italian OR's and Murchison for the remainder. An officers' camp near Murchison (known as Dhurringile) was later erected for German PW officers. The general problem of accommodation is, however, dealt with in PART III, Chapter 1, and the matter need not be taken further here.

6. It is of interest to record that the Commonwealth Government agreed, on representations from the United Kingdom, to accept up to 7,500 Germans from the Middle East, but at a later stage War Cabinet agreed that no further shipments of Germans should be accepted as the organisation of group employment schemes and essential guard requirements would have aggravated the heavy strain on depleted manpower, whereas the individual employment of Italian PW (vide PART III, Chapter 2) would lessen these difficulties. The transfer of additional Italian PW to Australia was therefore preferred.

ITALIAN PW TRANSFERRED FROM INDIA.

7. In February 1943 a proposal was made by the Military Authorities in India that the whole or part of 50,000 lower rank Italian PW held there should be transferred to Australia for employment. While the acceptance of large numbers of PW to be held under guard could not be entertained, the proposal warranted consideration as a possible means of relieving manpower shortages. This matter is referred to fully in PART III, Chapter 2, dealing with the employment of PW, and it is sufficient to state here that in view of preliminary experience in the use of available Italian PW at Control Centres in Australia, a decision was reached to accept shipments of suitable types from India, totalling up to 10,000. Of these 5,000 were asked to be despatched as soon as practicable, the balance being left in abeyance pending concurrence on shipment between Army and the Director-General of Manpower. Under this scheme, Fascist types and known or suspected dysentery carriers, were to be eliminated and agricultural workers selected as far as practicable. India was requested to include protected personnel on the basis of 2 Medical Officers, 10 Medical orderlies, 2 Dental Officers, 2 Dental orderlies and 2 Chaplains for each 1,000 PW sent.

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8. Some delay occurred in obtaining shipping, and in September 1943 India was asked to ship a total of 10,000 PW as soon as practicable as these could be absorbed immediately in employment schemes. This figure was later increased to 17,500. The following shipments were received:-

Shipment No.	Date of Arrival	Officers	O.R's	Total
1	4 Oct 43	2	1,012	1,014
2	1 Nov 43	1	506	507
3	16 Nov 43	1	506	507
4	29 Dec 43	1	506	507
5	16 Jan 44	1	506	507
6	5 Feb 44	2	1,012	1,014
7	22 Feb 44	4	2,024	2,028 *
8	26 Apr 44	8	4,048	4,056
	Total	20	10,120	10,140

* 1,000 Other ranks from this draft were disembarked in Western Australia for employment in rural industry in that State.

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9. Advice was received that a pool of about 7,000 alleged Fascist types were available in India if their transfer to Australia was desired. Experience with the 14,000 Italian PW already in Australia had been that the extreme Fascists were uncooperative, but many others who professed to support Fascism were quite satisfactory workers. For this reason it was recommended to War Cabinet that approval be given for selection from the group in India of types considered suitable, and on approval being given, an Army officer and an officer of Security Service were despatched to India to confer with the appropriate military authorities for the purpose of agreeing upon the basis and methods of selection of PW. Shipments under this scheme were:-

Shipment No.	Date of Arrival	Officers	O.R's	Total
1	29 Dec 44	-	991	991
2	12 Feb 45	-	2,076	2,076 *
	Total			3,067

* 1,000 of these PW were allocated for work in Western Australia.

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10. Most of these PW had been in India for about three years, during which time they had not been engaged on work of any kind, other than small maintenance tasks within their compounds. Their minds were naturally occupied in political matters and ardent members of the Fascist regime, and Fascist police (MVSN) who had not been withdrawn, had little trouble in fostering and keeping alive the Fascist doctrine. In selecting PW suitable for rural work in Australia, an individual examination of PW was made, unfit and unsuitable types were noted for rejection and care was

taken to ensure that no one knew who had been selected for movement before rejects were marched out to another camp. This was done in such a manner that no liaison could be established by troublemakers with those selected. It was realised that the best results could be obtained from these particular PW by placing them on farms rather than in hostels, for the following reasons:-

(a) In hostels, where large numbers would be together for any length of time it was probable that Fascist ideals would be maintained and some would assert themselves as leaders.

(b) Placement of the PW on farms immediately on arrival in Australia would prevent them from establishing any organised influence among themselves, and without ready contact with their confederates, any Fascist tendencies they might have would, in most instances, fade away.

(c) The opportunity would be available to segregate them completely from non-Fascists by placing together on farms only members of this particular group.

11. Certain preliminary difficulties were experienced by some Commands with these PW but this was due mainly to lack of firmness in treatment, and their truculent attitudes were soon overcome by proper discipline, and where necessary, threats to transfer them to permanent camps. It was found that as soon as some were advised of early movement to farms, the others were only too glad to volunteer for work.

12. Handling of all these shipments, both from the Middle East and from India, was a task on its own. Adequate arrangements had to be made in advance for accommodation, and on arrival for proper documentation, transfer to camps, etc. In addition, procedure as laid down by the War Office to co-ordinate transfers from one holding country to another had to be complied with, and proper medical arrangements made to minimise the possibility of introduction into Australia of forms of dysentery, etc. with which the PW might be infected. This latter problem is referred to more fully in PART III, Chapter 6.

GERMAN PW EX "KORMORAN"

13. 315 German PW were captured from the "Kormoran" as a result of its engagement with the HMAS 'Sydney'. These PW were landed in Western Australia and despatched to PW camps where they were held in custody on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

ENEMY MERCHANT SEAMEN PREVIOUSLY CLASSIFIED AS INTERNEES.

14. An enemy merchant seaman was defined as:-

"An enemy national, who, at the time of his capture, either is a member of the crew of any ship or is proceeding abroad in accordance with an agreement to join and serve in any ship, or who has been at any time since 1 Sep 39, a member of the crew of any ship".

In the above context, "ship" included a ship employed in sea-fishing or the sea-fishing service, or pilotage, a lighthouse tender, a light-vessel tender or a light vessel. The expression "member of the crew" means a person who had been employed or engaged as a member of the crew of a ship in any capacity, and included a person employed or engaged as a Master, Pilot or Apprentice.

15. Advice was received from the United Kingdom in February 1942 that Empire policy was to be brought into line with that of European belligerents by treating all merchant seamen as PW. Action was taken accordingly to revoke the detention orders for about 434 German and Italian internees held in Australia who were found to come within the definition quoted above, and these were transferred to appropriate PW camps for accommodation as officers or other ranks.

16. A major difficulty arose over the classification of Japanese internees who had previously engaged in the pearling industry around the Australian coast and this matter was referred to the United Kingdom. The reply stated that these internees (about 534) should be treated as PW if they were employed in fishing at the date of Japan's entry into the war, and that if they were reclassified they would not be eligible for repatriation unless passed by a Mixed Medical Commission. Accordingly action was taken to transfer these Japanese to PW camps. It will be noted in PART II, Chapter 23, that the Japanese requested that many of this particular group should be included in a proposed exchange of civilians.

17. A small number of Finns and Rumanians (23) were also reclassified and transferred to PW camps as Merchant Seamen. The approximate total number of PW merchant seamen held immediately after all transfers were effected was:-

	Officers	O.R's	Total
German	65	140	205
Italian	38	218	256 *
Finns	1	21	22
Roumanian		1	1
Japanese		534	534
Total	104	~~914~~	~~1018~~

* The majority of these were captured ex the vessels "Romolo" and "Remo" and were held by the Commonwealth on its own behalf. The remainder were held on behalf of the United Kingdom.

JAPANESE PW CAPTURED BY THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES.

18. Immediately after the outbreak of war with Japan, preliminary instructions were issued for the handling of all PW captured outside Australia and disembarked in Commands without prior notice. Under Standing Orders, the evacuation of PW to Commands normally was effected from Corps PW Cages. Commanders of Commands were given directions for appropriate arrangements regarding reception and holding of PW in depots in their Areas, pending transfer to permanent camps under instructions from Army Headquarters.

19. In the early stages of the war with Japan only small numbers of Japanese PW were captured by the Australian Forces. In December 1942 only 29 other rank PW were held. This figure increased to 8 officers and 314 other ranks by March 1943. By February 1944 about 1,000 Japanese were held, but this figure included about 534 Merchant Seamen transferred from internee status. Large influxes of PW captured by the American Forces in the Pacific by September 1944 (see below) made it necessary to issue amended and consolidated instructions for the handling of Japanese. These will be dealt with in PART II Chapter 13, ~~previous transfers of PW.~~

20. Up to the time of the cessation of hostilities with Japan the total number of PW captured by the Australian Forces and held as PW was approximately 1,003. This figure included 207 Javanese, 74 Chinese, 61 Formosans, 56 Koreans and 33 Indonesians.

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JAPANESE PW HELD ON BEHALF OF U.S.A.

21. In response to a memorandum from the Chief of the General Staff to the C-in-C, South West Pacific Area, advice was received in September 1942 that any PW captured by American troops would be the responsibility of the American Government. Initially they would be detained in Australia under the same conditions as applied to PW held by the Commonwealth, but would be subject to ultimate disposition by the United States Government, which would be responsible for the expense of maintenance in Australia. The Commonwealth agreed to expenditure incurred in this connection as Reciprocal Lend Lease Expenditure on the basis of 7/- per day for each PW.

22. Preliminary estimates of the numbers of PW from early projected operations by the American Forces were so small that no additional accommodation was considered necessary. Up to February 1944 only 200 PW were sent to Australia as US captures, but by August 1944 this had increased to nearly 1,300. The total number captured by the American Forces and handed over to the Commonwealth for custody was approximately 4,100.

SUMMARY OF PW HELD:

23. The following is a summary of PW held in Australia:-

GERMAN PW			
From Middle East	...	1,095	
Transferred from Internees as Merchant Seamen	...	166	
Captured ex "Kormoran"	...	315	
Other local captures (mainly ex "Ramses")	...	82	
			1,658
ITALIAN PW			
From Middle East	...	4,957	
" India	...	13,207	
Transferred from Internees as Merchant Seamen	...	268	
			18,432
JAPANESE PW			
Captured by A.M.F.	...	1,003	
Merchant Seamen transferred from internee status	...	534	
Captured by U.S. Forces (Approx)	...	4,100	
			5,637
Grand total of PW held			25,727

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ACCOMMODATION.

24. The most important factor relating to the handling of PW is the provision in advance of suitable accommodation. The existence of adequate camps for PW(& Internees) in the Commonwealth was due to partial implementation of the plan to accommodate 50,000 PW from the Middle East. Construction of camps was completed or partly completed for about 20,000 persons before the scheme was abandoned after the transfer of only a few thousand PW. This left us in the happy position of being able to take care of future requirements by merely completing partly erected camps. Once war with Japan was declared it would have been impossible to have obtained the labour and materials required for camps and in any case their erection could only have taken place long after the numbers of PW in tented accommodation had reached embarrassing proportions. It is imperative that camps be sited, planned and erected well before the need arises and that the standard of accommodation for garrison and PW be based on a recognition that they may spend many years in the camp.

CHAPTER 2

TREATMENT OF ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR

1. As a signatory to the International Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, 1929, and to the International Convention for the amelioration of the wounded and sick in Armies in the Field, also of 1929, both of which were ratified in 1931, the Commonwealth was bound to treat PW held in this country strictly in accordance with the terms of those Conventions.

2. The responsibility placed upon the "Enemy PW" section of the Directorate was accordingly an onerous one. Interpretation of the Conventions and of National Security legislation in respect of PW called for considerable legal knowledge and unstinted effort on the part of officers concerned. Further, in order to ensure proper co-ordination of the treatment of PW throughout all Empire countries, it was necessary to maintain liaison with United Kingdom authorities on all matters of policy. However, for domestic reasons, the United Kingdom Government was informed in the early stages of the war that the Commonwealth must always have regard for its status and obligations as a party to the Conventions, and that complete conformity with United Kingdom policy might not always be practicable.

3. While treatment in general was governed by the Conventions, the terms of those Conventions were in some instances modified by direct agreement with enemy countries and these reciprocal agreements then formed the basis for treatment. Furthermore, as stated in Part I, Chapter 2, para 3, certain provisions of the Geneva Convention were not altogether acceptable or free from ambiguity and as a result differences of opinion arose between the German Government and His Majesty's Government on such matters as pay, food, clothing, etc. Actual implementation of Convention provisions therefore depended in some instances on its interpretation by enemy Governments.

4. Apart from those considerations, and far more important, was the absolute necessity to provide against any possible retaliation by the enemy for acts in relation to its nationals which might be construed as a failure to observe the Convention, or unwarranted use of force or arms. With enemies who were unscrupulous, any pretext was seized upon to impose disciplinary measures or punishments against British and Allied nationals, and even though Camp Commandants at times desired to impose unauthorised restrictions on PW, often fully deserved, a strong policy of strict adherence to the Conventions had to be maintained at all times.

5. The basis of the administration of PW, as in the case of internees, was the National Security legislation and the orders made in pursuance thereof. These will be dealt with in detail in Part II Chapter 4.

6. The following aspects relating to the treatment of PW had to be particularly noted in framing policy in the Commonwealth:-

(a) Japanese PW required special treatment. Their mental outlook, affected to some considerable extent by the known attitude of their own Government towards PW, was such that death meant little or nothing to them. Adequate security measures were therefore essential.

(b) The Japanese Government had not ratified the Geneva Convention, and accordingly there was no responsibility on the Commonwealth to apply its provisions to Japanese PW. However, for humanitarian reasons it was decided to apply these provisions in general.

(c) Protected personnel, vide Part II Chapter 17, required special treatment under the Conventions.

(d) Officers and persons of equivalent status had to be treated with due regard to their rank and age.

7. As in the case of internees, the treatment of PW in Australia was at all times the subject of interest and criticism by the public and the press and often formed the basis for lively political discussion. Red Cross representatives, Protecting Power representatives and welfare organisations took an active interest in the PW held in the Commonwealth and there was no room for laxity on the part of the Directorate in implementing the policy laid down.

The practice was accepted whereby Protecting Power Representatives, the Apostolic Delegate and representatives of Philanthropic bodies such as the YMCA and Red Cross, had direct contact with the Director. Whenever necessary, any discussions were made official by the transmission of confirmatory letters through appropriate channels.

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CHAPTER 3

PRISONERS OF WAR LIAISON OFFICER

1. In May 1941 a cable was received from the Secretary of State for Dominions Affairs London stating that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom would be glad to learn whether the Commonwealth Government would be prepared to receive a Liaison Officer from the Directorate of Prisoners of War at the War Office, London. The duties of this officer were given as under:-

(a) To give assistance to the Commonwealth in connection with the treatment of PW, and

(b) To assist the Director of PW at the War Office in co-ordinating PW policy in all those places to which PW had been transferred on an "Agency basis".

The United Kingdom authorities particularly stressed the fact that experience had shown the enemy was eager to seize upon any differences of treatment however un-detrimental to the welfare of PW and to raise difficulties concerning them or even carry out reprisals.

2. After consideration of all aspects of the proposed appointment a reply was despatched stating that it was considered that as a signatory State, Australia would be held to the PW Convention and would therefore be held by enemy countries to be a detaining power within the meaning of the Convention, with the full responsibilities and implications arising from that status, and that the treatment of Australian PW by the enemy would be directly affected by the manner in which Australia interpreted and applied the Convention. In view of this, and as no difficulties could be foreseen in the handling of PW provided the United Kingdom kept the Commonwealth fully informed from time to time of all relevant factors, it was further stated in the reply that the following procedure was presumed:-

(a) that all communications would still pass from government to government,

(b) that the Australian Government would be furnished with a copy of all communications passing between the Director and the Liaison Officer as affecting PW in Australia, and

(c) that details of proposed procedure purposed to be followed by the Liaison Officer would be communicated to the Australian Government before it was finally determined.

3. In a further communication, the United Kingdom authorities contended that the action of any one Government in the treatment of PW might react upon PW of some other part of the Empire and that complete co-ordination of action was considered necessary. While agreeing to the Australian proposals regarding communications, it was stated that experience had shown that direct correspondence between LO's and the Directorate at the War Office could assist greatly, but that the officer concerned would have orders to adopt a procedure to be agreed between himself and the Australian Military Authorities.

4. The proposed appointment was then connurred in, and Lt-Col J.A. Adams of The Essex Regt, arrived in Australia towards the end of July 1941. This officer immediately discussed problems of treatment with the Directorate and visited camps. His liaison duties were found to be light and insufficient to keep him fully occupied. In September 1941 advice was received that the situation in East Africa as regards PW required the presence of an experienced officer and that if practicable Lt-Col Adams should spend about three months there, afterwards returning to Australia. This was agreed to, and the opportunity was taken to have several matters discussed between Col Adams and General Headquarters, Middle East, including in particular the question of advance information on proposed shipments to Australia.

This information was required to enable the erection of any necessary camps. As a result a promise was given that information would be given as far in advance of proposed shipments as possible.

5. During his stay in Australia, no reports were submitted by the Liaison Officer and he did not supply copies of any reports submitted by him to the War Office. Matters of interest were discussed with him and on occasions he forwarded a liaison telegram transmitting information or an enquiry.

6. The War Office advised in December 1941 that a liaison officer was no longer considered necessary in Australia and that on completion of his duties in East Africa Lt-Col Adams would return to the United Kingdom. It was further indicated that Senior Officers would visit the Dominions periodically.

7. Colonel R.S.M. White C.B.E. visited Australia in October 1942.

CHAPTER 4

NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS, CAMP ORDERS ETC. REGARDING PW

1. Regulations, Camp Orders etc. governing the administration of enemy PW in Australia were:-

(a) National Security (Prisoners of War) Regulations.

(b) Prisoners of War Camp Orders made in pursuance of the Regulations.

(c) Rules for the Procedure and Trials of Prisoners of War.

(d) Prisoners of War Correspondence Orders.

(PRISONERS OF WAR)
NATIONAL SECURITY/REGULATIONS.

2. A great deal of effort was expended to ensure that these regulations would adequately incorporate and interpret the Geneva Convention and subsequent experience showed that an excellent result was obtained. A copy of the regulations is attached as Appendix..12..

3. The Regulations were gazetted on 24 Jul 41 and, as in the case of internees, were administered by the Minister of State for the Army. Regulation 8 provided for the making of Camp Orders in relation to the maintenance of discipline in, and the administration, management, inspection and internal economy of, PW camps.

4. It will be observed that Regulation 31 originally provided for the despatch by PW of two letters or postcards in each week. This regulation was amended in Nov 41 as a result of an agreement between Germany and the United Kingdom, and provision was made for the making of orders by the Minister concerning the numbers of letters and postcards to be sent, vide para 8.

5. Many minor amendments and additions were made to the regulations to suit local conditions. Two of the more important were:-

(a) The amendment of Reg. 20 to guard against the unlawful manufacture or dealing in canteen orders or tokens, and

(b) The amendment of Reg. 29 to provide for the payment of work pay by canteen orders or tokens.

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP ORDERS.

6. Under authority of the Regulations, the Adjutant-General made several PW Camp Orders (Nos. 1 to 12) which were later incorporated in Camp Order No. 13, appendix ..13.. While these Orders were most comprehensive, it was necessary for each PW Camp to have its own set of Camp Rules, made by the Camp Commandant under Regulation 9, and dealing with routine management, discipline, etc.

RULES FOR THE PROCEDURE AND TRIAL OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

7. The Minister for the Army made further rules under Reg. 96, relating to the trial of PW by military courts, and in particular, in relation to:-

(a) the convening, constituting, adjournment, dissolution and sitting of military courts;

(b) the procedure of rules and evidence to be observed at ~~any~~ ~~such~~ trials; and

(c) the forms to be used in connection with ~~any such~~ trials and the revision and confirmation of the findings and sentences of military courts.

These do not require to be dealt with fully here. The reader will find a copy attached to this report as Appendix ..14..

PRISONERS OF WAR CORRESPONDENCE ORDERS.

8. Orders made by the Minister for the Army under the authority given in Regulation 31 were:-

(a) PRISONERS OF WAR CORRESPONDENCE ORDER NO. 1.

This was signed in December 1941, and was designed to ~~give effect to a reciprocal arrangement with Germany~~ cover correspondence by Italian and German PW. It will be dealt with more fully in PART II Chapter 5..

(b) JAPANESE PRISONERS OF WAR CORRESPONDENCE ORDER.

This was signed in January 1943 and in the absence of any agreement with the Japanese was promulgated mainly for its propaganda value as letters from Australia contained many references to good treatment. The number of letters and postcards permitted under the Order was similar to the allowances for German PW.

CHAPTER 5.

CORRESPONDENCE OF PRISONERS OF WAR

1. This subject can most conveniently be dealt with under two separate sections, viz., inward mails for PW and outward correspondence of PW.

SECTION A - INWARD MAIL FOR P.W.

Limitations :-

2. No limit was imposed on the number of letters, postcards or unmounted photographs of a domestic nature, a PW could receive, except that he was not permitted to receive picture postcards, photographs of a suspicious or objectionable nature, or letters containing pictues or drawings of such a nature (Reg 35(1). He could also receive parcels containing foodstuffs and other articles intended for consumption or clothing, and was permitted to send a formal acknowledgement by postcard for such parcels (Reg 36). Books and music could also be received subject to limitations, vide PART II Chapter 8 .

Method of Arranging Delivery and Censorship :

3. Instructions for the handling of inward mail and parcels for PW were contained in "LHQ Field Censorship Instruction No 3" of 10 Oct 42, vide Appendix 4 .

Examination at Camps of Inward Mail etc.,

4. The examination of all letters and parcels for PW was arranged by Camp Commandants, in accordance with Regulations, to permit of the following :-

(a) The extraction of remittances of money from letters, for placing to the credit of PW accounts, vide Reg 35(2).

(b) The removal of postage stamps from letters and the removal of wrappings from parcels, vide Camp Order No 13 para 41.

(c) The extraction of letters from parcels and their despatch to the District Censor for censorship before delivery, vide Camp Order No 13, para 42.

(d) The extraction from parcels of incompletely cooked meats which might be the means of introducing animal diseases into Australia. In this respect, all meat, including poultry, products, except those in hermetically sealed tins, on which the manufacturers' labels indicated that the products were fully cooked, were handed over to the Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) in the Command concerned for destruction in accordance with the provisions of the Quarantine Act.

5. Camp Commandants were authorised to arrange for the despatch to camps of mail or parcels addressed to hospitalised PW in order that the necessary examination could be carried out before delivery to the PW concerned.

Exemption From Charges :

6. Letters, other than air-mail letters, and parcels addressed to PW, were exempt from postal charges. Presents and relief in kind intended for PW were exempt from all import and other duties and from charges for carriage on railways in the Commonwealth, except that dutiable articles deemed not to be bona fide presents were withheld from delivery pending reference by Camp Commandants to the Collector of Customs with a view to the assessment and charge of duty. (Reg 30).

These provisions interpreted Article 38 of the Geneva Convention requiring exemptions from charges.

Lists of Parcels Received :

7. In pursuance of a reciprocal arrangement between belligerent powers in 1941, Camp Leaders of German ~~and Italian~~ PW camps in Australia were permitted to furnish to the representative of the protecting Power and to the International Red Cross Delegate in Australia, monthly statements showing the number, nature and origin of parcels or bulk supplies received from overseas sources.

Alleged Thefts From Parcels :

8. As an item of interest, it is recorded that the German Government asserted through the protecting Power in March 1943 that parcels addressed to German PW and Internees in Australia were being continually robbed. It was stated in the complaint lodged that insignia of rank and similar objects were being stolen as well as tobacco and other consumable goods. Exhaustive inquiries were made into the alleged thefts but it was found that no blame could be attached to camp staffs. Some parcels had arrived in a damaged condition and all were opened in the presence of the addressees. Improvements in packing and wrapping reduced possibilities of loss during later stages of the war and adequate precautions were taken to prevent pilferage.

Disposal of Parcels For Deceased or Repatriated P.W. :

9. Procedure adopted in Australia to dispose of parcels received for deceased and repatriated PW was in general conformity with practice in the United Kingdom and with the wishes of the International Red Cross. Parcels were forwarded to camps in which PW of the same nationality as the addressee were held and if practicable, to the camp in which the addressee had been held. The parcels were then dealt with as follows :-

(a) Contents , other than articles of a personal nature or articles of value, were distributed among indigent or sick PW of the same nationality as the addressee.

(b) Articles not distributed were sent to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau. Each parcel was marked with the names and addresses of the addressee and, if known, the sender . Where the name of the sender was not known the parcel was marked "Name of sender not known".

(c) The PWIB forwarded articles received to the IRC Delegate in Australia for disposal.

To guard against pilferages or losses Camp Commandants and the PWIB were directed to maintain adequate records of the receipt and disposal of all articles taken from parcels for depatch through the PWIB.

SECTION B - OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE OF PW

Number of Letters Permitted :

10. Article 36 of the Geneva Convention provided that each of the belligerents should fix periodically the numbers of letters and postcards which PW of different categories should be permitted to send each month, and that the numbers so fixed should be notified to other belligerents. It was accordingly necessary for separate authorities to be given for each nationality of PW held in the Commonwealth and to take into account the attitude of each belligerent concerned.

11. To facilitate this action, Regulation 31 was drafted to authorise the Minister for the Army to make PW Correspondence Orders

fixing the number of letters and postcards which could be sent by each class of PW. The decisions made and the basis on which they were made are dealt with in the following paragraphs.

German P.W. :

12. The German Government advised in 1942 through the American Ambassador to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in London that British PW would be permitted to send a maximum of two letters and four postcards per month in the case of soldiers (other ranks) and three letters and four postcards for officers. This was later supplemented by advice that protected personnel would be permitted to send double the number of letters and postcards authorised for other PW. PW Correspondence Order No. 1 signed by the Minister for the Army accordingly approved of the despatch by German PW held in Australia of a similar number of letters and postcards.

Italian P.W. :

13. In the absence of advice from the Italian Government regarding numbers of letters and postcards which Allied PW would be permitted to send, provision was made in PW Correspondence Order No.1 for Italian PW officers and other ranks to send two letters or two postcards or one letter and one postcard in each week. This number was based upon the number fixed for internees and was also applied to protected personnel. Advice was received in December 1941 that an agreement had been effected between the United Kingdom and Italian Governments whereby protected personnel detained by the repective governments should be permitted to send weekly two letters of a maximum of 24 lines and two postcards of a maximum of ten lines. Action was taken to amend the Correspondence Order to permit Italian protected personnel only to send the required number of letters and postcards.

14. Japanese P.W. :

In May 42 a cablegram was sent to the United Kingdom requesting advice on the number of letters and postcards Japanese PW should be permitted to send pending agreement with the Japanese Government. Proposals to Japan for a reciprocal agreement on this matter were not replied to and the United Kingdom authorities suggested that the mail allowance for Japanese should be fixed provisionally on a basis similar to that fixed for German PW. This proposal was agreed to as there were indications that the Japanese were permitting some British PW to write letters and because of the small number of Japanese PW held in Australia compared with the number of Australian PW held by Japan. A Japanese PW Correspondence Order was made authorising Japanese PW to send appropriate numbers of letters and postcards.

Summary :

15. The following summary of authorised allowances under Correspondence Orders will facilitate the reader's appreciation of the position :-

NATIONALITY OF PW	RANK OR CATEGORY	NUMBER OF LETTERS OR POSTCARDS PERMITTED
German	Officers	3 letters and 4 postcards per mont
	Other Ranks	2 letters and 4 postcards per mont
Protected Personnel	Officers	6 letters and 8 postcards per mont
	Other Ranks	4 letters and 8 postcards per mont
Italian	Officers	2 letters or 2 postcards or 1 lett and 1 postcard in each week
	Other Ranks	do
Protected Personnel	Officers	2 letters and 2 postcards in each
	Other Ranks	do week
Japanese	Officers	3 letters and 4 postcards per mont
	Other Ranks	2 letters and 4 postcards per mont

Protected Personnel	Officers	6 letters and 8 postcards per mon
	Other Ranks	4 letters and 8 postcards per mon

Outward Parcels :

16. The despatch of outward parcels by PW was allowed only in cases where permission was granted by the Camp Commandant on account of exceptional circumstances (Reg 32).

Restrictions Imposed :

17. By Regulations, Camp Orders and Administrative Instructions issued by Army Headquarters , certain restrictions were imposed on the outward correspondence of PW for security and other reasons. The more important of these were restrictions as to length of letters and language to be used, and under Regulation 31, PW were not permitted to send two letters on the same day except in cases where special circumstances existed, and then only with the permission of the Camp Commandant. General restrictions imposed by the Camp Orders will be found in Camp Order No. 13, para 38, vide Appendix /3 . Some other important restrictions were :-

(a) In general, PW were not permitted to correspond with PW or internees held in any other camp in Australia. This rule was relaxed in 1944 to the extent that Camp Commandants, who were permitted to authorise such correspondence in special circumstances, were instructed to permit German and Italian PW to correspond with PW of the same nationality in other camps.

deleted except for first two words "Japanese PW" XRef 6/66/2

(b) Japanese PW were given permission in 1944 to conduct inter-camp correspondence with PW of the same nationality when such correspondence was necessary for urgent family or business reasons. However, after the Cowra [redacted] (vide Part II Chapter 22) this type of correspondence was stopped subject to approval being given in special cases by Army Headquarters. It was felt that PW segregated after the outbreak would attempt to make undesirable contacts with compatriots and thus foster further trouble. Camp Commandants were permitted to make exceptions, at their discretion in respect of Japanese Merchant Seamen at Hay, New South Wales, who had been transferred from internment camps and who desired to correspond with their wives who were held as internees at Tatura, Victoria.

(c) PW were prohibited from despatching from their camps or from handing to any visitor any articles of food or other items which they had purchased from camp canteens. This restriction was imposed to prevent PW sending to members of the Australian civilian population such items as chocolates, cocoa and similar goods which were in short supply to the community.

(d) Correspondence relating to complaints concerning conditions of captivity was to be addressed only to Camp Commandants or to representatives of the protecting Power. Letters of this nature addressed to other persons or institutions were not permitted. The issue of specific instructions on this matter was found necessary when it was ascertained that PW representatives were forwarding letters of complaint to such people as the Prime Minister, the IRC Delegate and the Apostolic Delegate.

Types of Stationery Permitted :

18. The following types of stationery were approved for the use of PW :-

(a) Service of Prisoners of War Notelopes (Combined notepaper and evelope for general use
(b) " " " " Postcards
(c) " " " " Parcels acknowledgement cards, vide para 2.
(d) " " " " Address cards, vide para 20.

Cards used by PW under (c) and (d) above were not counted as part of the authorised allowance of letters and postcards under Correspondence Orders.

19. Where approved notelopes or postcards were not available, PW could use the following only :-

(a) Plain white glazed paper, not exceeding in size 10" by 8", and plain white envelopes.

(b) Thin white glazed postcards.

Capture or Address Cards :

20. These were made available to PW to comply with Article 36 of the Geneva Convention, under which they were to be permitted to send not later than one week after arrival at their camp, and similarly in the case of sickness, a postcard to their families informing them of capture and of their state of health. The cards were printed for convenience with appropriate spaces to be completed by each PW concerning location of his camp, etc. PW at temporary local camps were required to give their address as C/o Prisoners of War Information Bureau.

21. In the absence of assurances by the Italian Government that Allied PW were being permitted to complete capture cards, and in accordance with policy adopted in the United Kingdom, cards were temporarily withdrawn from Italian PW Camps early in 1943. These were again issued in June 1943 following upon receipt of advice that the International Red Cross at Geneva was receiving capture cards completed by PW held in Italy. Italian PW appeared to be reluctant to complete these as the International Red Cross Delegate in Australia stated that only small numbers had been received by him up to the end of 1943. The PW could not be compelled to complete the cards but better results were achieved when it was explained to them that their purpose was to enable the International Red Cross at Geneva to maintain accurate central records of PW.

Telegrams & Cables :

22. Cables or wireless communications by PW to overseas addresses or to places in Australia were not permitted unless special approval was given by the Adjutant-General or the officer Commanding a Command, vide Reg 31(3). Similar approval had to be obtained by any third party who wished to lodge a message for transmission on behalf of or in respect of the affairs of a PW, vide Reg 31(4). The Regulations referred to were designed to implement Article 38 of the Convention under which PW could be authorised to send telegrams only in cases of "recognised urgency". In order to ensure uniformity of practice at all camps, instructions were issued to Commands that overseas telegrams could be sent under the following circumstances :-

(a) By the Delegate of the International Red Cross in Australia, forwarding replies to enquiries concerning the health or well being of PW in Australia, or their relatives.

(b) By PW pursuant to Reg 31(3), but subject to approval of the Controller-General of Customs when destined for enemy territory.

(c) Those within category (b) above which were addressed to the IRCC at Geneva could be sent by the IRC Delegate in Australia if so instructed by, at the request of, or in respect of the affairs of, a PW.

Special Facilities Available to PW :

23. Airmail : In pursuance of reciprocal arrangements with the German and Italian Governments approval was given for German and Italian PW held in Australia to send by air-mail, at their own expense, any or all of the letters and postcards authorised under the relevant Correspondence Order, vide para 15. Special rates were 1/- per ½ oz for letters and 6d for postcards, and applied to communications from the PW to their homelands. This approval was also extended to Japanese PW to conform with Empire practice, the relevant rates being 5d per ½ oz for letters and 4d each for postcards. As an alternative to authorised air-mail correspondence, Italian PW were also permitted to use at their own expense, the "Airletter" postal service to Italy, available to the general public. This latter approval was not given until 1946.

Airgraphs :

24. The New Zealand Government proposed the use of airgraphs for German and Italian PW early in 1943 and the Imperial Prisoners of War Committee in London considered it necessary for the scheme to be made available to PW of those nationalities in Australia in order that reciprocity might be sought from Germany and Italy. This suggestion was concurred in and PW were granted facilities to send authorised letters as airgraphs at rates applicable to the Forces. Special forms were provided by the Postmaster-General's Department for this purpose.

25. Apostolic Message Service :

Monthly messages not exceeding 25 words were permitted to be despatched by PW through His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate in Australia. These messages were subject to examination by the Camp Commandant and were NOT deemed part of the authorised allowance of letters and postcards permitted under Correspondence Orders. Directions for the handling of outwards messages under this authority and of replies thereto were contained in memorandum SM 22410 of 19 Nov 42, vide Appendix 5 .

International Red Cross Message Service :

26. This service was known as the "Express Message" Service. Personal messages only were permitted to be sent to certain reciprocating countries, addressed to the next of kin of PW concerned. It was a condition of the service that the right to despatch a message was reserved exclusively for PW who had received no communication from their next-of-kin for a period of three months or more. Messages were not deemed part of the authorised allowance of letters and postcards. Detailed instructions to Commands on this subject are given in memorandum No. 48365 of 23 Apr 45, vide Appendix 6 . As in the case of internees, the service was not extended to Japanese PW as the Japanese Government would not accept the scheme.

Use of Christmas Cards :

27. In 1942 the YMCA posted to all PW Camps supplies of Christmas cards for use by German and Italian PW. The recall of these cards was arranged in order that they could be overprinted to comply with regulations. By Correspondence Order, PW of these nationalities were later authorised to send three Christmas cards each year in addition to their other permitted correspondence, and approved cards were issued to PW Camps by the YMCA each year. The depatch of Christmas cards by Japanese PW was NOT permitted.

Italians Employed in Rural Industry :

28. To facilitate the handling of correspondence by Italian PW employed in rural industry, arrangements were made for all outgoing letters to be sent to censors through Control Officers. PW "Covers" were made available to PW in the form of envelopes which were signed by the Control Officer and bore the words "Prisoner of War Post". Envelopes and stationery were made available in small quantities at frequent intervals in order that the PW would have no opportunity to unduly accumulate stocks.

Correspondence of Disarmed Personnel :

29. A limited mail service was arranged for the large number of Japanese disarmed personnel held in AMF Areas after the collapse of Japan. Correspondence was permitted subject to the following :-

(a) Official correspondence was restricted to matters pertaining to the repatriation of Japanese Forces and Japanese nationals.

(b) Private correspondence by disarmed personnel was limited to postcards of a personal nature only.

(c) Commercial and financial communications were prohibited.

(d) All mail was routed to SCAP censorship stations at Tokyo, Osaka or Fukuoka.

(e) Despatch of mail by air was not permitted.

Cessation of Censorship :

30. Censorship of PW mails ceased as from 10 Nov 45 when appropriate amendments were made to National Security Regulations. The discretionary powers of Camp Commandants to conduct local examinations of letters and parcels was not affected but such examinations were conducted for information only and unless the nature of a communication was itself an offence against Regulations or Camp Orders, the delay, destruction or withholding of mail was not permitted.

General :

31. Although Army Censorship of PW mails was controlled by the General Staff, A Branch (through the Directorate) was vitally interested in all instructions issued in order to ensure proper compliance with Convention requirements, and had also to issue numerous administrative instructions concerning correspondence. It was necessary to maintain a close liaison with the General Staff and with the Controller of Posts and Telegraph Censorship. Numerous conferences were attended by officers of the Directorate on this important aspect of PW administration.

32. As in the case of internees, it is recorded that consideration should be given to the types of articles (and their volume) transmitted to PW from their native country in either personal or Red Cross parcels. For example, large quantities of cigarettes and tobacco in the hands of PW can be used in attempts to bribe their guards. Australian PW testify to the efficacy of such an approach whilst they were held in custody in Europe.

CHAPTER 6.

DISCIPLINE OF PRISONERS OF WAR

1. Authority for the maintenance of discipline among PW was exercised in accordance with the Geneva Convention, appropriate National Security Regulations, Camp Orders, Camp Rules and instructions issued by Army Headquarters. In general, little real difficulty was experienced in enforcing reasonable discipline among PW although a firm hand had to be exercised at all times in relation to details of procedure in order to guard against retaliation by the enemy for any unwarranted show of harshness or force.

2. The main problems of discipline were associated with the handling of Japanese whose moral standards were such that their capture meant to their minds utter disgrace. There was an extremely strong hierarchial sense among members of the Japanese fighting forces. Fighting men were unaccustomed to do any work other than actual fighting. This was done for them by special units provided for the purpose, and sailors and soldiers considered it an outrage to their dignity to be called upon to undertake any but purely belligerent duties. Furthermore individual units had a tendency to isolate themselves and prevent smooth running of a complete camp as a unit. (These problems were to a large extent overcome by firmness coupled with the careful use of propaganda, and the only really serious incident occurring in Australia was the Cowra ~~riot~~ referred to fully in PART II Chapter 22.)

selected from these problems to end 1 para

GENERAL.

3. Obedience to the provisions of regulations was provided for in Regulation 47 of National Security (PW) Regulations, requiring PW to comply with Regulations, Camp Orders, Camp Rules, etc. and setting out a list of offences. The PW were subject to military and civil law as though they were members of the Australian Military Forces of equivalent rank on active service, and were liable to the same penalties deductions, stoppages and forfeitures, vide Reg. 50.

ESCAPE.

4. Summary punishment for escaping or assisting in escapes or attempted escapes was provided for in Reg. 48. Action taken by Army Headquarters to minimise the possibility of escapes is dealt with fully

PART III

CHARGES.

5. Camp Commandants were authorised by Regulation 51 to investigate charges against PW and to -

(a) dismiss the charge,

(b) deal summarily with the charge, or to

(c) refer the charge to a superior authority for orders.

In this respect, the maintenance of proper discipline and authority in PW camps was, in some cases, prejudiced by failure to prosecute PW under appropriate charges. Some offences dealt with summarily by Camp Commandants might have been more effectively handled by Military Courts Detailed directions were therefore issued by Army Headquarters requiri offences to be dealt with in a manner appropriate to their gravity. The following offences were treated as "minor" when there were no circumstances of aggravation:-

(a) Escape

(b) Attempted escape

(c) Petty sabotage or negligent loss of clothing and Government stores

(d) Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipli

6. Camp Commandants were directed to refer to Commanders of L of C Areas (later Commands), as the superior authority, any charges which, if brought against a member of the Australian Military Forces, would not have been dealt with summarily.

7. It should be noted that refusal of a PW to work was an offence which was considered serious, and if the PW refused to co-operate after proper warning, the offence was to be referred to the superior authority for direction after the PW was duly charged. PW were informed that they could not legally stop work or refuse to work becaus they alleged the work was prohibited work under the Geneva Convention. Their proper action under those circumstances was to continue work but to refer their allegations to the Protecting Power or the Military authorities through official channels.

PUNISHMENTS, SENTENCES, ETC.

8. The time of commencement of any summary punishment awarded b

the Camp Commandant under Reg. 52 was as stated in Reg. 53, and was to be carried out in accordance with Reg. 54 which made provision for proper treatment and facilities. PW could not be punished more than once for the same act on the same charge.

TRIALS.

9. It is not considered necessary to deal in detail with the various provisions relating to trials of PW as set out fully in Regulations 56 to 96 (vide Appendix.12.), or with the procedure for the conduct of trials as covered by "Rules of Procedure for the Trial of Prisoners of War" made by the Minister for the Army in pursuance of his powers conferred by Reg. 96, vide Appendix..14..

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

10. Collective disciplinary measures affecting food were not permitted, in accordance with Reg. 15.

11. Badges of rank and Decorations were permitted to be worn by PW, vide Reg. 18.

12. Saluting. Regulations provided that PW other than officers would salute all officers of the Australian Military Forces and that officer PW would salute officers of the AIF who were their superiors or equals in rank. Salutes had to be made in the authentic military style. Care was exercised to inform Commands of the types of salutes permitted by each nationality of PW, and to ensure that all officers in contact with PW should acknowledge all salutes given them by PW.

13. Complaints. PW were permitted to bring complaints to Camp Commandants and no punishment was incurred even though any such complaints were found to be groundless. They were also given facilities to communicate complaints to representatives of Protecting Powers regarding conditions of captivity, vide Reg. 40.

14. Spirituous Liquors. In the interests of discipline, and as provided by Camp Orders, PW were not permitted to have in their possession or to consume any spirituous or fermented liquor except such as the Camp Medical Officer considered necessary for health reasons.

15. Prohibited Articles. The various articles which PW were prohibited from having in their possession are set out in Camp Order No. 13, para 15.

16. Meetings. The holding of meetings for political propaganda purposes, political demonstrations and the like were not permitted, neither were PW allowed to victimise their fellow PW for political views held.

17. Flags. The outdoor display of national flags or emblems was prohibited, but the display of small flags within the huts could be permitted by Camp Commandants at their discretion.

OFFENCES AGAINST FEMALES.

18. Vigorous action was taken to suppress as far as practicable offences by Italian PW employed on farms, against females. By notice i all camps and hostels, and by verbal advice from Control Officers, all Italian PW were informed of the provisions of Camp Order No. 13, para 36, and that they were subject to trial for any civil offence they might commit against a female. Employers of PW labour were also advise of their responsibility to check any familiarity shown towards females by the PW, and Control Officers instructed to immediately withdraw from employment any PW whose behaviour towards females was considered undesirable.

19. In no cases where PW had committed civil offences against females, were the offences tried by military courts, but local police were given all possible assistance in the taking of civil action against PW concerned. In the event of a PW having improper relations wi a female under circumstances which did not consitiute a civil offence, he was whenever possible charged and tried by a military court.

20. Considering the number of Italian PW employed on farms in Australia, the number of offences of this type were not excessive, probably as a result of the policy adopted at all times to treat the offences as serious and to award punishmnets accordingly.

CHAPTER 7.

SEGREGATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

1. Policy adopted in relation to the segregation of PW held in the Commonwealth was governed by the following essential requirements of the Convention :-

Article 9. "Belligerents shall as far as possible avoid bringing together in the same camp prisoners of war of different races or nationalities".

Article 21. "Officers and persons of equivalent status who are PW shall be treated with due regard to their rank and age".

Article 22. "In order to ensure the service of officers' camps, soldier prisoners of war of the same armed forces, and as far as possible speaking the same language, shall be detached for service therein in sufficient number, having regard to the rank of the officers and persons of equivalent status"

Article 49. "....officers and persons of equivalent status who suffer penalties entailing deprivation of liberty shall not be placed in the same premises as non-commissioned officers or private soldiers undergoing punishment".

2. In addition to the above requirements, it was necessary, under Article 13 of the Wounded and Sick Convention, to provide protected personnel with the same lodgings etc. as were available to corresponding ranks of the AMF.

3. National Security (PW) Regulations made appropriate provision for the essential requirements. Reg 6 required that officers and persons of equivalent status should be detained at separate officers' camps, and that PW of different races and nationalities should not be brought together in the same camp. Reg 26 made provision for the proper treatment of officer PW and for the detachment of other rank PW to perform necessary services in officers' camps. Provision was also made in Reg 23 for the establishment of any necessary isolation places for PW suffering from infectious or contagious diseases.

GERMAN AND ITALIAN P.W.

4. Separate camps were established at Dhurringile, Victoria, and later at Myrtleford, Victoria, for the accommodation of German and Italian PW officers respectively, and thus no great problem arose concerning officers of these nationalities. A small number of Italian protected personnel officers were retained at Cowra in 1941 to administer to the needs of other ranks of the same nationality held there, and representations were made by the International Red Cross Delegate in Australia that better and separate accommodation should be provided for them. However, while action was being taken to investigate the possibility of providing special accommodation the officers themselves made written request to be left with the other rank PW.

5. Appropriate camp hospitals were provided, vide Part III. Chapter 6. , and Camp D in the Cowra Group, New South Wales, was reserved for the accommodation of Italian PW suffering from or found to be carriers of amoebic or bacilliary dysentery

6. In all instructions relating to the arrival in Australia of German and Italian PW, express provision was made for the segregation of officers and the detachment to their camps of other rank PW batmen of the same nationality, on the basis of 1 to each 5 officers. Necessary cooks etc were also provided from other rank PW.

Communication between officer camps and other ranks' camps were not permitted except under exceptional circumstances, and then only with the approval of the Camp Commandants.

7. In 1944, following upon the revision and reclassification of Italian PW, those classified for other than medical reasons as permanently unsuitable for employment without guards in rural industry were transferred to Camp D at the Murchison Group, Victoria. This camp was then used as a special place of accommodation for Fascists, troublemakers and unemployable PW. Action had to be taken, however, to curb the natural tendency of PW Control officers and Command Headquarters throughout Australia to treat the camp as a "dumping place" for all undesirables, when in many cases firm handling could overcome the disobedience or truculence of PW who would then become good workers.

Deleted from "Italian PW"

8. In 1945 it was noted in Camp Intelligence Reports that various individual Germans and Italians were known or suspected to be ringleaders of Nazi and Fascist cliques which were seeking to intimidate their fellow PW and generally to maintain faith in their respective doctrines. This situation was viewed with some concern as the presence of such ringleaders in camps could become a source of embarrassment or of disturbance when and after hostilities ceased with Germany. In any case, the active propagation and observance of Nazi and Fascist doctrines in the camps after the defeat of Germany would have been objectionable on the grounds of public policy. Action was accordingly taken to have the problem fully investigated with a view to making any necessary or desirable transfers, although it was realised that the removal of ringleaders might by itself merely open the way for other extemists to take their place. It was considered that transfers would serve a useful purpose if they were part of a definite plan to reduce Nazi and Fascist activities. Furthermore, the United Kingdom expressed an earnest desire to re-educate PW along proper lines and the removal of ardent Nazi & Fascist adherents seemed to be a prime necessity if this policy was to be carried out.

Deleted

9. Command Headquarters expressed their opinion on the necessity for this segregation and on their recommendations it was decided to defer segregation but to take definite steps to attain the desired result of properly re-educating PW. Steps taken included :-

(a) The prohibition of Nazi and Fascist type salutes, these to be replaced by the standard Army type salute as observed by the AMF.

(b) The removal from office of camp leaders known to possess strong Nazi and Fascist leanings. Camp Commandants were requested to exercise discretion in effecting changes of this nature, but it was considered that at some camps removal of the camp leaders might be the most desirable way of indicating that Nazi or Fascist leaders were no longer acceptable.

Deleted

(c) The withdrawal of Nazi and Fascist signs, emblems and literature.

(d) The maintenance of segregation of Italian PW received from India under the scheme referred to in PART II Chapter I para 9 for employment. These PW were avowed Fascists and required careful handling.

(e) The review of classes of instruction for the purpose of eliminating undesirable teachings.

10. In most instances the results were considered satisfactory as the majority of PW ceased outward and active adherence to their former political doctrines and were obedient and co-operative. As some of the later arrivals of Italian PW were co-operative their accommodation with other Italian PW was later approved subject to Command discretion.

11. As a further step, a number of copies in German of a weekly paper "WOCHENPOST" and a monthly digest "AUSBLICK" issued under the auspices of the War Officer were obtained from the United Kingdom and made available to German PW in Australia. While these were at first received with caution and in some cases open hostility, opposition soon vanished and requests were received for large supplies.

12. Apart from the above, no important re-allocations of German or Italian PW were found necessary. Transfers were of course necessary to utilise the accommodation available to the best advantage and to enable employment of PW where necessary, but in general the problem of segregation was overcome without great difficulty.

JAPANESE P.W.

13. The problem in respect of Japanese PW was a much more involved one, and in fact one which did not lend itself to a completely satisfactory solution owing to the peculiar physchology and fanaticism of the PW . NCO's of the Japanese Army were regarded by the lower ranks as sub-officers, and there were always Private soldiers who were inclined to parade a fervent patriotism with the idea of applying moral pressure upon their superiors who might then feel themselves obliged to instigate disturbances in order to prove their loyalty and to atone for their not having committed suicide.

14. Contact by PW with PW or internees of other nationalities needed to be completely barred and Japanese NCO's and Privates regarded as ringleaders were segregated where necessary after being disciplined or tried by Court Martial where they had committed an offence.

15. At Gaythorne, Queensland, where the Japanese PW were processed before being transferred to permanent PW Camps, care was exercised to segregate those interrogated from those not interrogated, and also to segregate, after interrogation, Koreans and Formosan PW from other Japanese. The Koreans and Formosans were segregated at Cowra where they were held in Camps C and D. This was considered essential to remove them from Japanese influence and thus to make them easier to handle and employ.

16. Japanese officers were for some time held in a fenced off section of Camp D at Cowra. Up to the time of the Cowra ~~Mutiny~~ Outbreak vide Part II Chapter 22 they numbered only 50, but they were later transferred to a special compound at Murchison, Victoria to which camps additional officers captured were sent direct from Gaythorne. Batmen were provided for them from other ranks Japanese on the basis of one for each 5 officers, and necessary cooks, etc. were also made available from among the other ranks PW.

17. Recommendations were made by HQ Eastern Command (then NSW L of C Area) in 1944 that not more than 300 Japanese PW should be accommodated in any one group or camp. The dispersal of all Japanese PW to comply with this proposal was not practicable, but consideration was given to various transfers to separate NCO's from Privates held at Cowra, New South Wales and to the transfer of all Privates other than Labour Troops to Hay, New South Wales.

18. While these transfers were being considered the Cowra ~~Mutiny~~ Outbreak occurred, and action was thereupon taken to transfer all other ranks Japanese to Camp No 8 at Hay where Japanese Merchant Seamen were held in Camp No 6 and mixed personnel including labour troops in Camp No 7.

19. Various other transfers were effected as camps were closed on repatriations being effected, but the above will suffice as a general guide to the policy adopted in the segregation of Japanese PW. It should however be added that revised policy during the later stages of the war provided for the holding of all WO's and NCO's at a camp in the Murchison Group, Victoria. This action assisted greatly in promoting harmony among the Japanese PW.

CHAPTER 8.

EDUCATION OF P.W.

1. As in the case of internees (vide Part I Chapter 13) the policy adopted by the Directorate in relation to educational facilities for PW was to permit them every possible opportunity to further their studies. It was considered even more necessary for PW to have their leisure time usefully occupied, but against this the security risk of the entry of books, etc. into camps was probably greater, and care had to be exercised to guard against their use for purposes of illicit communications.

Books etc Permitted :

2. Under Regulation 37 of National Security (PW) Regulations PW were allowed to receive books (other than those containing hostile sentiments or propaganda), music and small musical instruments, but consignments received by post were examined by Camp Commandants or other authorised officers who were entitled to withhold any article from delivery to the addressee. Purchases of books and music by PW had to be made through the Camp Commandant or an officer authorised by him.

3. Libraries were established at camps and, subject to the approval of the Camp Commandant, books received from representatives of the protecting Powers and authorised relief societies were included in these libraries (see Reg 39.)

4. As a special privilege, PW were permitted to borrow text books subject to certain carefully defined conditions and providing that, in the opinion of the Camp Commandant concerned, there were special circumstances, i.e. the scientific or technical attainments of the PW warranted such permission being given.

5. Permission was also given for PW to receive certain classes of overseas publications. These were to be ordered from and forwarded by publishers, news agencies or organisations, they were to be printed in English in countries other than enemy, enemy-occupied or neutral, and in general were to come within one of the following classifications:

Periodicals of a general literary nature.
Trade, comerce and industrial.
Religious.
Professional.
Technical.
Banking and financial.
Medical.
Scientific.
Chilrens'.
Art.
Economic.
Musical.
Agricultural.

German Government's Proposal :

6. In 1942 the Swiss Legation advised that it had been asked to advise all German Camp Leaders in the Empire that the German Authorities wished every endeavour to be made to further education among PW. They were asked to see that courses to that effect be organised and the PW informed that, irrespective of their rank, they should consider themselves in duty bound to attend those courses. The Legation pointed out that material suitable for such courses had been supplied from time to time through the German Red Cross and further books would be sent, or should be applied for, on the basis of a pamphlet to be issued.

7. In a memorandum for Camp Leaders setting out details of the proposed scheme it was stated that the objects were :-

(a) To prepare PW for examinations of secondary schools, colleges, technical schools, special army schools and special trade schools.

(b) To train and educate PW as commercial men, technical experts, agriculturalists and for academic or other similair professions.

(c) To raise the general standard of specialised knowledge. As an incentive, the German Government stated that it was proposed to grant to PW who passed examinations on their return, in subjects selected for study, special privileges.

8. As this policy was acceptable in the United Kingdom and as Australian PW in Germany were receiving books through Red Cross Channels and were being given some facilities for study, the proposed scheme was acceptable to Army and Commands were advised that no objection was raised to its adoption in Australia, subject to proper censorship of books and the approval of Camp Commandants to study and lecture arrangements in their camps.

9. Commands were further advised that if arrangements could be made for the supply of suitable books through the YMCA or the Italian Red Cross, facilities of a like nature could be given to Italian PW held in the Commonwealth.

Other Facilities :

10. Every opportunity was taken to encourage the study by PW of the English language. Many Italian PW, particularly, took advantage of this opportunity to their great advantage.

11. Canteen profits were used by PW to purchase some of the required text books for studies or reference and by this means built up their camp libraries.

12. Japanese PW were given all possible facilities for study in liesure time but generally did not take advantage of the opportunity to the extent they could .

CHAPTER 9.

DEATHS AND INJURIES TO P.W.

1. The PW Convention requirements relating to deaths of PW while held in captivity are contained in Article 76 of the Convention, under which

(a) Wills of PW were to be received and drawn up under the same conditions as for soldiers of the national armed forces.

(b) The same rules were to be followed as regards documents relative to the certification of death, and

(c) Belligerents were to ensure that PW who had died in captivity were honourably buried, and that graves bore the necessary indications and were treated with respect and suitably maintained.

2. To implement these requirements separate instructions were issued by Graves Registration concerning burials and by the Directorate in relation to wills, notification of deaths, coronial inquiries as required by National Security (PW) Regulations, violent deaths and other associated matters. The following is a resume of all important Regulations and directions on this subject.

Wills :

3. Convention requirements were incorporated in the National Security Regulations (Reg 44) under which facilities were to be afforded in every PW camp for PW to make their wills. Provision was also made in this regulation for the preservation of all such wills by Camp Commandants until the releases or death of PW when they were to be delivered to the PW or sent to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, as each case required.

Action on Death of PW:

4. Regulation 46 of National Security (PW) Regulations required to following action on the death of a PW :-

(a) The Prisoners of War Information Bureau (PWIB) was to be informed by the Commandant as soon as possible of the particulars of the identity of the PW.

(b) All monies, personal effects, valuables, correspondence, pay books and identy tokens of deceased PW were to be despatched to the PWIB as soon as possible.

(c) Two copies of the particulars, or of a list of the monies or things sent to the PWIB, were to be sent to the local District Records office.

(d) The officer-in-charge of the Records Office concerned was to despatch one of such copies to the office of Second Echelon at Army Headquarters.

5. In addition to the above action, express instructions were issued by the Directorate for the despatch by the Camp Commandant of a telegram to his local Records Office notifying the place, time and reputed cause of the death of any PW for whom he was responsible.

Coronial Inquiry :

6. In the event of the death of a PW from any cause other than in pursuance of a sentence of death passed by a competent court, a coronial inquiry was to be held, whenever practicable, and a formal finding of the cause of, and the circumstances surrounding, the death was to be recorded by the coroner, vide Regulation 43.

7. Depending upon the circumstances of, and the probable repercussions which might arise from the death of a PW, a legal officer was, at the discretion of Command HQ concerned, to be appointed to represent the Army at coronial inquiries .

8. At the conclusion of each coronial inquiry held, one copy each of the evidence given at the inquest and of the Coroner's finding were to be forwarded to Army Headquarters and to the PWIB. A copy of the finding only was despatched to the local Records Office.

9. PWIB was directed to forward a copy of the Coroner's finding to the representative in Australia of the appropriate protecting Power. To avoid possible confusion through the despatch of incorrect advice on deaths to such representatives no information concerning findings were permitted to be transmitted through any channel other than the PWIB and this information was not to be given to the International Red Cross Delegate in Australia or to any other person or body.

Burials :

10. Regulation 45 of National Security (PW) Regulations covered Convention requirements for burials by providing for PW who died in captivity to be honourably buried and proper arrangements made to ensure that the grave bore a record of the PW's name, rank and regimental or other number, and was treated with respect and suitably maintained.

11. To implement this policy, directions were issued, through Graves Registration, that burials should be conducted in the same manner as that prescribed for the burial of personnel of the Defence Forces. While the requirements of the Convention in regard to "necessary indications" on graves of PW had been covered to a certain degree by Reg 45, directions were also given to include the dates of death and burial and the Army to which the PW belonged.

Violent Deaths & Injuries :

12. In addition to appropriate action for the notification of death and the holding of a coronial inquiry, etc. in accordance with the instructions already mentioned, it was found advisable to hold Courts of Inquiry into death of or injuries to PW under the following circumstances :-

(a) Death by shooting or other violent means as a result of an act of the guard, another PW or any other person.

(b) Injury by shooting or other violent means as a result of an act of the guard, another PW or any other person.

(c) Injury during employment or otherwise, except in the case of a slight injury leaving no permanent ill effect, when a medical certificate attached to PW documents was sufficient.

13. It will be fully realised that such Courts were essential ~~in order~~ to investigate fully the circumstances of deaths and injuries in order that a true and proper record could be maintained. This practice conformed with that in force in all Empire countries and was a means of guarding against any wrongful interpretation which might lead to acts of retaliation by the enemy on Allied nationals.

14. Copies of the proceedings and report of all such Courts were despatched to Army Headquarters and to local Records Offices, and express direction was given that no information concerning these matters should be transmitted elsewhere without prior approval from Army Headquarters.

15. Commands notified the representatives of appropriate protecting Powers of deaths or injuries under (a) and (b) of paragraph 12, but all such notifications were confined to the fact of death or injury and the place and date thereof.

16. The policy was always adopted of taking at any Court of Inquiry the evidence, where available, of fellow PW who had witnessed the incident.

17. Some difficulty arose over proper distinction between slight and other injuries. It was at first suggested to Commands that

serious injuries, as opposed to slight, were those resulting in the admission of PW to hospital as an in-patient. It was appreciated however that owing to local circumstances , PW injured while employed in rural industry were hospitalised for short periods of treatment in cases where there was no possibility of permanent ill effects. Approval was therefore given for Commands, at their discretion, to dispense with Courts of Inquiry under such circumstances provided care was taken to ensure that the medical certificate filed with PW documents was clear and adequate as a permanent record as to the extent of the injury.

18. As a matter of interest it is recorded that worker's compensation benefits in respect of injuries to PW while employed, as provided for in the last paragraph of Article 27 of the Convention were not allowed in the absence of agreement between belligerents. As PW were in receipt of pay or cash allowances, those suffering injuries were in a position to provide themselves with usual comforts etc.

Sentences of Death :

19. Procedure in the event of sentence of death being passed by a Military Court on a PW was covered by Regulations 75, 83 and 84 which required :-

(a) Notification of sentence (under sealed cover) to the accused.

(b) Communication of the sentence through proper channels to the representative of the protecting Power.

(c) Stay of sentence until a period of three months after receipt of such notice by the representative of the protecting Power.

(d) Confirmation of the sentence by the Governor-General.

Records Procedure :

20. As in the case of internees (vide Part I Chapter 14.) Directorate instructions were supplemented by Second Echelon directions giving detailed procedure for the recording of deaths and advice through appropriate channels.

Directorate Records :

21. In view of the value of correct records of coronial inquiries and Courts of Inquiry regarding deaths and injuries to PW, the Directorate maintained book records of all such casualties. Careful compilation of these records assisted greatly in handling questions, particularly from protecting Power representatives, on incidents which might appear important in the eyes of the enemy.

Statistics :

22. For the information of the reader, the following statistics are given of deaths of PW in Australia :-

	Suicides	Shot or bayonetted by Guards	Died of Natural Causes	Total
German PW	4	1	3	8
Italian PW	15	1	85	101
Japanese PW ✱	43	199	72	314
	62	201	160	423

✱ Includes 231 who died as a result of Cowra outbreak vide Part II Chapter 22.

deleted all w/k Italian d Jap

NB 6 Feb 67

General :

23. Attention is invited to para 7 of Chapter 14 of Part 1 of this report concerning the importance of prompt notifications and thorough investigations into the deaths of internees. The remarks made there apply with equal force to PW.

CHAPTER 10.

PROPERTY OF PRISONERS OF WAR

1. As the Commonwealth was responsible for all losses of property by PW while held in Australia, Regulations and Camp Orders governing its control were supplemented by careful administrative instructions to ensure its proper recording and care. These instructions were incorporated in Accounting Instructions Part V Chapter II, vide Appendix 15, and there is therefore no great need to deal with them fully here except to state the Regulations and Orders relating to property and to comment on items of special interest.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING P.W. PROPERTY.

2. Principle Regulations and Camp Orders on this subject were:-

(a) Reg 11. - made provision for search of PW on arrival at a PW Camp and for the removal from ~~him~~ of all property which they were not permitted to retain in their possession, for particulars to be recorded, and for a receipt to be given.

(b) Reg 14. - prescribed action to be taken with the property of PW and for it to be kept in such place as directed by the Camp Commandant. This regulation also made provision for the safe custody of jewellery or other valuables, etc. at the expense of PW concerned, and for lists to be made of all property, for signature by PW concerned.

(c) Reg 46 - giving the procedure to be adopted for the disposal of the property of deceased, released or repatriated PW.

(d) Reg 47. - prohibiting PW from having in their quarters or possession any article in contravention of Regulations and Camp Orders.

(e) Camp Order No 13, Para 15. - stating the articles which PW were prohibited from retaining in their possession.

INSPECTIONS OF PROPERTY.

3. Directions were issued that at each PW Camp or place where any property of PW was held, a physical inspection and check of the property and records relating thereto should be made during the months of June and December each year. These inspections were to be made by officers holding appointments not connected with the camp or group of camps at which inspections were made. Officers charged with this duty were to submit certificates of inspection, a copy of which was to be forwarded to Army Headquarters (for DPW & I). A mere certificate of checking was found unsatisfactory and checking officers were asked to further certify whether the records required by Reg 14. had been kept, were in satisfactory condition and up to date, and whether the lists of property prepared as a result of the checking agreed with such records. In 1944, District Finance Officers of Commands concerned with the holding of PW took over responsibility for this checking. ~~In 1944~~.

RECORDING OF PROPERTY.

4. Property of PW was recorded on Form WF 121A (Register of Property copies of which were disposed of in accordance with Accountancy Instructions referred to in para 1 above, and a "PW Property Disposals register was maintained at each camp with an alphabetical index.

DISPOSAL OF PARCELS RECEIVED FOR DECEASED AND REPATRIATED P.W.

5. The policy adopted to dispose of parcels received in Australia for deceased and repatriated PW is stated in Chapter 5 para 9.

CLAIMS FOR LOSSES OF PROPERTY.

6. Claims by PW for losses of property in Australia were not numerous and generally related to alleged losses prior to arrival in the Commonwealth, in respect of which appropriate correspondence was despatched to authorities concerned overseas. Where losses were incurred in the Commonwealth enquiries were made to establish responsibility and where necessary, recommendations were made to Finance Branch that Ministerial approval should be sought for the payment of compensation.

DISPOSAL OF EFFECTS OF DECEASED AND REPATRIATED P.W.

7. United Kingdom policy in 1942 in respect of the disposal of the effects of deceased PW was to store bulky articles for the time being and to return to the country of PW concerned small articles for distribution to next-of-kin. All personal effects of deceased PW were kept stored at the PWIB in Australia and upon receipt of representations by the Protecting Power representative in 1945, advice was sought from the United Kingdom concerning the policy to be adopted for disposal.

8. As no change was contemplated at that stage in England, property held was retained by the Bureau in accordance with earlier instructions, which provided for adequate arrangements in connection with the safe custody of foreign currency and valuables .

9. Difficulties were later experienced in relation to property of PW transferred overseas as it was found necessary, to facilitate movements, to limit the quantity of baggage taken by each PW. The baggage of each officer PW was limited to two suitcases or similar containers, and that of other rank PW to the amount each individual could carry with him. Consequently, surplus property began to accumulate at camps and at the PWIB and steps had to be taken to dispose of this in a proper manner, together with the accumulated property of deceased PW.

10. With the concurrence of AFHQ, Mediterranean Theatre, about 17 tons of property belonging to deceased and repatriated Italian PW and Internees was shipped to Italy in the vessel "CHITRAL" in September 1946. This was followed by a shipment of about 12 tons of property on the "ORONTES" in January 1947 and 17 packages of effects and one package of valuables on the "TARN" in February 1947. Each shipment was accompanied by baggage lists and in the case of deceased PW, property was marked with the recorded name and address of the next-of-kin of PW concerned. Authorities in Italy were notified of the despatch of baggage and copies of baggage lists were sent by air mail with a request for acknowledgement in due course of the baggage listed. OC Troops in each case was also provided with copies of these lists. The property was addressed to the Italian Ministry of Post War Reconstruction (Prisoners of War Bureau) Rome. It is understood that the effects were disposed of through the local military authorities in Italy in the cases of living PW and through the Italian Red Cross when the PW was deceased.

11. Enquiries were made through the United Kingdom in December 1946 concerning the disposal of similar property belonging to deceased and repatriated German PW and Internees and on advice received, action was taken to forward such property to the Central Postal Enquiry Bureau, care of Hamburg District, British Army of Rhine, B.A.O.R., for disposal. Despatch was effected on the "GENERAL HEINTZELMAN " in December 1947 and the United Kingdom advised of action taken. Appropriate baggage lists accompanied the property and copies of the lists were carried on board by an officer (civilian) of the Army Secretariat at Melbourne who accompanied a mixed party for repatriation.

12. With regard to property belonging to deceased and repatriated Japanese PW, advice was received from the United Kingdom that property of Japanese which was not legally acquired by them should not be returned to Japan. Many valuable articles were held and as it was considered impracticable to ascertain whether these were legally acquired or the names of Allied Nationals to whom portion of it may have belonged, approval was requested from General MacArthur's Headquarters to return it to Japan. Preliminary replies indicated that the articles held were at the disposal of the Australian Government, but in view of the desire on the part of Australia to comply with Article 77 of the Geneva Convention it was later agreed that it should be despatched to the Economic and Scientific Research Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan. The property was forwarded to Japan on the "MERKUR" in May 1947 accompanied by appropriate lists, copies of which were forwarded to Japan with a request for acknowledgement of the effects in due course.

13. It should be mentioned here that, in an effort to prevent undue accumulations of property after the repatriation of PW of all nationalities, approval was given for Camp Commandants to exercise their discretionary powers under Reg 52 to permit the despatch by PW before their repatriation of a limited number of postal parcels to their homelands containing personal belongings such as books, works of art or small clothing, which would normally be in excess of their baggage allowance at the time of repatriation.

14. Another problem was the storage of the property of escapees after departure of all other PW and internees from Australia. This responsibility was given to Southern Command (Victoria) by direction for the holding of the property in a suitable storeroom pending recapture of the escapees or disposal at a later time if they were not apprehended.

ACTION ON CLOSING OF CAMPS

15. Instructions concerning action to be taken in regard to PW property remaining at camps after the departure of all PW are contained in an amendment to Accountancy Instructions Part V Chapter 2, vide Appendix 16.

FUNDS OF PRISONERS OF WAR

1. As in the case of internees, it is not deemed necessary to deal in full in this report with the various regulations regarding money taken from PW or received by them during detention. These are precise and permit of no misunderstanding, but their implementation in practice called for the issue of several administrative instructions on general procedure and specific problems relating to books of account, transfers of monies overseas, etc. For the information of the reader, relevant Regulations and Camp Orders are listed below :-

Subject	Regulation	Camp Order
Definition of money	2	
Action taken on arrival of PW	11	Order No 13 para 14
Opening of cash accounts	13	Order No 13 para 16
Transfers of credit balances	13A	
Withdrawals of cash	13	Order No 13 para 16
Audit of accounts	13(6)	
Transfers of money to new camps	28(3)	
Extraction of money from mail	35(2)	
Restriction on money to be held		Order No 13 para 15
Disposal of cash on death, etc.	46	

Accountancy Instructions :

2. Accountancy Instructions to supplement these directions were issued through Finance Branch. These were carefully checked by the Directorate before issue in order to ensure that Convention requirements were met. The general Instructions were contained in "Accountancy Instructions Part V, Chapters 2, 3 and 4 vide Appendix 15 . These included special sections to deal with accountancy procedure in relation to productive projects including PW Control Centres, Hostels and Labour Detachments, and in relation to the employment of PW without guards in Rural Industry.

Transfers of Funds Overseas :

3. Certain administrative instructions were issued by the Directorate concerning reciprocal arrangements between belligerents regarding transfers of funds.

4. First indication of an arrangement between the United Kingdom and Italy on this subject was received in February 1942, under which unlimited ~~remittance~~ could be made by PW provided they were confined to service pay and money earned from employment and subject also to the proviso that officer PW must retain a minimum monthly sum of £8.6.8 (sterling) to meet necessary expenses. Implementation of this scheme was however, held up on advice from the United Kingdom, the main objection apparently being the fact that appropriate currency would have to be found to pay recipients in occupied territories. It was not until November 1944 that approval was finally given for the scheme to operate and instructions were then prepared and issued by the Directorate.

5. Under this scheme Italian PW could transfer to banks and private individuals in Allied Occupied Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, the whole or any part of their accumulations of pay but collective remittances were not permitted. Schedules of Remittances were provided for certification by Camp Commandants and Camp Paymasters and appropriate Finance Instructions were issued by Finance Branch covering procedure.

6. In pursuance of an arrangement concluded with the German Government, approval was given in Nov 43 for transfers by individual German PW to banks or private individuals in Germany of the whole or any part of the credit balance in their repective cash accounts. This scheme was, in effect, similar to that agreed to by Italy and similar procedure was adopted in handling remittances. The German Government made it a condition of such reciprocal arrangements that the rate of exchange for amounts paid out by Germany in Reichmarks on the one hand and by the United Kingdom in sterling, would be fixed at the

conclusion of hostilities and would be decided on a basis of agreements to be made between the Governments concerned at that time.

Transfer of Funds to Dependants of Internees :

7. In August 1942, the Swiss Consul applied for permission to distribute £400 contributed by German PW at Murchison, Victoria, for the benefit of uninterned wives and children of local German internees held at Tatura . A similar sum had been contributed earlier by the German internees for the benefit of PW on their arrival in Australia and the PW now stated they wished to return the gift. As the request was made at a time when German PW were actively plotting escapes, approval for payment was refused as it was considered that escapees may be assisted by beneficiaries from the fund. Approval was given for the return of the money to the internee donors but this was found impracticable as there had been releases and changes in inmates of the Tatura camps in the interim. To end the deadlock the Consul was asked to submit a list of the proposed beneficiaries and the list was submitted to the Director-General of Security for consideration and advice. On his recommendation, distribution was then authorised.

Withdrawals From Cash Accounts :

8. In pursuance of paragraph 16 of PW Camp Order No.13, an order was made by the Adjutant-General giving authority for any of the following officers to grant consent for a PW to withdraw from his cash account an amount exceeding £5 or for the withdrawal in any one week of amounts exceeding in the aggregate more than £5.

(a) Any officer holding the office or performing the duties of officer-in-charge of Administration at the Headquarters of any Command in which there was a PW Camp, and

(b) Any officer holding the office or performing the duties of Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of a Military District in which there was a PW Camp

9. PW could therefore withdraw from their cash accounts small amounts to purchase canteen orders or tokens with the approval of the Camp Paymaster, amounts not exceeding £5 for other purposes with the approval of the Camp Commandant and amounts exceeding £5 with the consent of any of the officers referred to in paragraph 8 above.

10. In conformity with Empire policy, the amounts which Italian officer PW (combatant and protected personnel) could spend from their pay or funds were limited as from 1 Aug 44. On that date existing funds of these PW were transferred to "Deferred Cash Accounts" in their names, the following amounts only being transferred, where available, to the "Drawings Cash Account" of each PW :-

Colonel	£10
Lt-Col	8.15. 0
Major	8. 2 .6
Captain	6.17. 6
Lieutenant	5.18. 8
2nd Lieutenant	4.13. 8

Deferred Accounts of the PW were then credited each month with all pay falling due after 1 Aug 44 less the following amounts which were credited to Drawings Cash Accounts each month :-

Colonel	£5.
Lt- Colonel	4. 7. 6
Major	4. 1. 3
Captain	3. 8. 9
Lieutenant	2.19. 4
2nd Lieutenant	2. 6.10

11. Funds in the Drawings cash accounts represented Italian rates of pay converted to Australian currency at a rate of exchange with sterling officially accepted by the Italian Government for general purposes. PW were permitted in general to spend only the money so placed in the deferred accounts, to which was added work pay for those employed outside their camps.

12. Restrictions were also imposed on the withdrawal of amounts from the cash accounts of Japanese Protected Personnel of officer status, vide PART II Chapter 16, para 14.

Investments in Commonwealth War Loans :

13. Some Italian officer PW held in Australia made substantial investments in Commonwealth War Loans without the prior knowledge of Army Headquarters. This matter was referred to the United Kingdom for advice and in reply it was stated that no such investments were permitted by PW in England and it was hoped that the amounts invested could be returned to the PW as the funds represented would otherwise cease to be the liability of the Italian Government and public funds would have to find the interest due from time to time. Arrangements were made through the Commonwealth Bank for the sale of the bonds in question and principal monies involved were re-credited to the PW.

Consular Payments for PW :-

14. Payments by the German Government through the Swiss Consulate for Other Rank German PW were forwarded by the Consul to Camp Commandants concerned who arranged for the crediting of individual accounts of the PW. All disbursements were subject to the Camp Commandants approval, and the PW themselves did not handle the cash.

Shortages of Funds :

15. In November 1942 it became apparent that the cash accounts of approximately 300 Italian officer PW of lower ranks were in a low financial state due firstly to the charging of debits from the Middle East and secondly to increased messing charges, vide PART II Chapter 16, para 10. The United Kingdom authorities advised that a similar state of affairs existed in Italy, where junior British officers were borrowing from senior officers to meet expenses including the cost of clothing. The Italian PW concerned were informed of the position and no further action was taken as it was hoped that complaints by them to the protecting Power representative might help towards influencing Italy to grant free messing to British PW on the basis of reciprocity.

16. German Merchant Marine Officers held at Dhurringile, Victoria also suffered shortages as their only normal source of funds was an allowance of 25/- each per month from enemy sources. Approval was therefore given in November 1942 for the Camp Commandant to credit to their accounts a maximum of £1 each in any one month from canteen profits provided that such action was requested in writing by the Senior PW officer at the camp. This procedure was to be suspended in the event of their accounts being materially improved by receipts from any other source.

Barracks Damages :

17. The practice was not adopted in Australia of charging collective damages in respect of government property to canteen profits as it was considered that any such action would contravene Article 12 of the Convention. The only departure from this policy was to charge any collective damages to PW Canteens or canteen stores against a reserve of profit temporarily withheld and which was adequate for the purpose. Unless damages to other property could be traced to individuals, no collective deductions were made from PW pay as any action of that nature would contravene Article 46 of the Convention.

Disposal of Funds - Deceased & Repatriated PW :

18. Advice was received from the United Kingdom in March 1943 that Germany had agreed to a proposal that credit balances of PW should not be paid to them but should be notified to the PW's own

Government which would be responsible to make payment, adjustment between the two Governments being a matter for post war settlement. Italy had rejected the proposal stating that the provisions of Article 77 of the Convention should be "strictly enforced." The scheme was adopted in accordance with Empire practice and PW repatriated were accompanied by statements of their balances in accordance with Accountancy Instructions.

19. A similar proposal concerning the credit balances of deceased PW was made to Germany and accepted, and arrangements were made for notification of such balances to the Consul-General for Switzerland, as representative of the Protecting Power for German interests in Australia. At the time of writing this report notification has been received from the Italian authorities that other Allied Governments have supplied statements concerning the funds of deceased Italian PW and requesting advice on the policy to be adopted in Australia. Action is therefore being taken to advise balances of deceased Italian PW.

ACTION ON CLOSING OF CAMPS.

20. Instructions concerning action to be taken in relation to any balances of PW after the closing of camps are contained in an amendment to Accountancy Instructions Part V, Chapter 11, vide Appendix 16.

CHAPTER 12.

VISITS TO PRISONERS OF WAR

1. General regulations controlling visits to PW camps in Australia were contained in Regulation 41 of National Security (PW) Regulations and in PW Camp Orders No.15 paragraphs 12 and 54. These will be referred to further in the sections of this Chapter dealing with the classes of visitors permitted. As in the case of internees, the authorised visitors maintained, in most cases, a direct personal contact with the Directorate and were prepared to discuss freely the complaints of PW or other questions concerning procedure or conditions, etc., and in this way many problems were disposed of to their satisfaction. Satisfactory relationships were fostered and maintained with them at all times as it was realised that their reports and actions would have some considerable effect on the treatment of Australian and Allied PW held by the enemy.

Visits by Representatives of Protecting Powers :

2. Regulation 41 provided that upon request of the representative of a protecting Power or his authorised delegate, the Camp Commandant would permit him to visit the PW camp and to converse with any PW who desired to speak to him, either personally or through the medium of an interpreter. Camp Orders provided that arrangements should be made to ensure that reasonable notice of any such visit was to be given to the PW and that they should be given facilities to submit complaints to the representative if they so desired.

3. As reports made by these representatives were submitted to enemy governments, officers at PW camps were instructed to exercise great care to avoid expressing opinions or making statements to them which would constitute admissions of defects, shortages or other conditions which might be considered unsatisfactory. On the other hand, the representatives were to be informed of any action being taken or under consideration in respect of such matters.

4. Reports on visits of representatives were forwarded by Camp Commandants in the same manner as those relating to visits by representatives to internees (vide PART I Chapter 17, para 13) and similar action was taken regarding them.

Visits by International Red Cross Delegates :

5. The International Red Cross Delegate in Australia was authorised to visit PW camps for the purpose of observing conditions and reporting thereon to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. He was given similar facilities to those accorded to representatives of protecting Powers and was permitted to discuss matters relating to conditions in camps with Command Headquarters and with Group and Camp Commandants.

6. Reports prepared by the delegate were invariably submitted to the Directorate before despatch to Geneva and were most complimentary to Australian treatment of PW. Where any error or misunderstanding was apparent in reports it was brought to the notice of the Delegate with a statement of the position to assist him in amending his draft report.

7. The Delegate was also permitted to visit and interview PW undergoing sentence at camps or military detention barracks, or in civil prisons.

Religious Visitors :

8. Heads of Religious Denominations and one deputy in each State were permitted to visit camps and to enter compounds. Their activities were confined strictly to pastoral service except that the Apostolic Delegate or his approved deputy could also deal with matters relating to the Vatican PW message service, vide PART II Chapter 5 .

Visits by Representatives of Philanthropic Organisations :

9. Camp Orders No 13, para. 54(1) stated :-

"A person representing a philanthropic organisation may be permitted to visit a prisoners of war camp on such occasions and at such times as the Camp Commandant thinks fit for the purpose of distributing relief in the camp if :-

(a) the organisation and the representative have been approved by the Adjutant-General or by an officer thereto authorised by him, and

(b) the representative has given an undertaking in writing to comply with all orders and directions issued by the Camp Commandant."

10. In general the organisations approved were confined to the following :-

(a) The Australian Red Cross Society to provide comforts etc. for PW in hospitals, Camp Dressing Stations and RAP huts.

(b) Catholic organisations to provide for the welfare of PW (mainly Italian)

(c) The YMCA to provide for the welfare of PW (mainly Germans), vide also para 12 below.

11. Representatives of these organisations were required by Commands to give necessary undertakings and were provided with authorisations in writing, with photographs attached, permitting them to visit PW camps. They were not permitted to enter compounds, except in the case of YMCA representatives, but could converse with PW representatives outside compounds.

12. Special facilities were granted to approved YMCA representatives. They were permitted to enter compounds, solely for purposes directly connected with the spiritual, recreational and educational activities therein, but subject to the following conditions :-

(a) Their spiritual activities were not to conflict with the functions of Camp Chaplains.

(b) Reports submitted by them were to relate only to their authorised activities and were not to deal with matters of camp conditions or administration unless specially authorised by Army Headquarters.

(c) They were to be accompanied by an officer during all visits to compounds.

Visits of Solictor or Counsel, etc. :

13. In accordance with Camp Order No 13, para 54(2) Camp Commandants permitted visits of solicitors or counsel or a witness to PW whose trial by a military court had been ordered or who was about to be tried by a civil court. The visitor in any such case was to bring sufficient evidence to prove his identity and the interview took place, as prescribed in the Camp Order, within the view of an officer or soldier of the guard, but not within his hearing.

Other Visitors :

14. Normally, the only other class of visitor to a PW was a member of the Defence Forces acting in the course of his duty, but provision was made for private visitors when approval was given by the Adjutant General or the officer performing the functions of the General Officer Commanding the Command in which the PW camp concerned was situated.

Visits by PW :

15. PW were not permitted to make visits outside camps for

obvious security reasons. This rule was relaxed to some extent to permit a small number of Italian PW to visit relatives immediately prior to repatriation.

CHAPTER 13.

TRANSFERS OF P.W.

ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

1. Information concerning the precautions taken during the transport of PW to Australia, action taken on arrival and after distribution to camps, is given in PART III Chapter 6, of this report, dealing with medical treatment of PW and Internees.

2. Wherever practicable, instructions were issued by the Directorate regarding anticipated arrivals of PW in Australia, movements to be effected on arrival, and distribution to PW camps. This was not possible in all cases, particularly in relation to local captures following on naval engagements. To ensure that prompt and proper action was taken by Commands when PW were received without prior notice, standard instructions were issued requiring, inter-alia, that :-

(a) PW should be sent to permanent camps containing PW of the same nationality and status, if such accommodation was available within the Command area.

(b) Temporary accommodation, with appropriate provision for maintenance, clothing, etc., should be made available if necessary, pending transfer to permanent camps.

(c) Movements from temporary accommodation to permanent camps were to be made under instructions from Army Headquarters.

(d) Army Headquarters were to be informed by signal of all such PW, and for this purpose a standard form of signal was to be used in which paragraph numbers eliminated the necessity for explanatory references. The form of these signals was carefully planned so that all necessary information was given in each case to enable the issue of instructions for transfer. The information covered the following :-

First (.).....(Combatant Officer PW - Number of each nationality separately for each arm of Service)

Second (.).....(Combant Other Rank PW - Number of each nationality separately)

Third (.).....(Protected Personnel - Numbers Medical Officers, Chaplains and Medical Other Ranks separately for each nationality)

Fourth (.).....(Any others - specified in detail)

Fifth (.).....(Date and place received)

Sixth (.).....(Where being held in temporary camp-where applicable)

Seventh (.)....(From whom received)

Eighth (.).....(Brief description of place or circumstances of capture if known)

Ninth (.).....(Numbers of officers and other ranks separately available for transfer to permanent camps on or after specified dates)

Tenth (.).....(Date by which remainder were likely to be available for transfer, giving reasons for desiring to hold them, e.g. further interrogation, hospitalisation, etc).

Eleventh (.)....(Numbers of escorts required for rail movements of each party indicated in "Ninth").

Twelfth (.).....(For use as required).

3. It will be appreciated that by the implementation of the above procedure PW were disposed of where practicable with the least possible delay, and where it was found necessary to hold any in temporary accommodation, Army Headquarters was given all necessary information on which to base decisions concerning allocations.

MOVEMENTS WITHIN AUSTRALIA

4. In general, the approval of Army Headquarters was necessary for all transfers or removals of PW in Australia except in the following circumstances:-

(a) Transfers of newly arrived PW to permanent camps vide para 2(a) above.

(b) Cases of emergency and for the safe custody of PW, vide Reg 6.

(c) Removal of PW to hospitals outside camps, when approval could be given by the Camp Commandant concerned.

5. The following general instructions were applied to transfers within Australia :-

(a) ESCORTS- These were to be provided by Commands as directed in Army Headquarter's approval for movement.

(b) NOTIFICATION- PW to be transferred were to be notified of their new destination in advance.

(c) EFFECTS- PW were to be permitted to take with them their personal effects, correspondence and parcels.

(d) NOMINAL ROLLS- Nominal rolls in triplicate were to accompany each party.

(e) SEARCH- PW were to be searched thoroughly before movement.

(f) RECEIPTS- Receipts for PW and their baggage and effects were to be given and taken at points of handing over & transfer of responsibility.

(h) SECURITY- During transfers, PW were not to be permitted access on trains or stations to literature, etc. which might give security information concerning Australia.

(i) ADVICE OF TRANSFER- Transfers were to be notified to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau and to District Records Offices.

(j) NOTIFICATION OF COMPLETION- Completion of movement was to be notified by Command concerned to Army Headquarters.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENTS

6. Sick PW were not included in movements from one camp to another if their recovery might have been prejudiced by transfer. PW Representatives were not transferred without being given necessary time to acquaint their successors with current business.

MOVEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

7. Local transfers of PW within a Command Area could be effected under local movement arrangements without the issue of movement instructions from Army Headquarters. In respect of all inter-State transfers, in order to properly co-ordinate the use of rail facilities, Directorate approvals for movement were supplemented by instructions issued by "Q" Branch (Movements) at Army Headquarters.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING JAPANESE PW

8. In September 1944, following on large increases in the holding of Japanese PW in Australia, consolidated instructions were issued for the general administration of PW of that nationality. These instructions provided for the segregation of leaders from the main body of PW and the removal of Koreans and Formosans from Japanese influence to make them easier to handle and employ. Directions were given for the redistribution of Japanese to enable their holding in the following camps :-

Hay NSW - Camp 6- Merchant seamen

Camp 7 - Privates of all grades, merchant seamen and labour personnel transferred direct from Gaythorne, Queensland.

Camp 8- Similar categories to the above, but restricted to those held at Cowra, NSW, prior to the Cowra ~~mutiny~~, vide Part II, Chapter 22 .

Cowra NSW - Camp 12C - Formosans

Camp 12D - Japanese Officers in small compound and Korean PW separately.

Murchison, VIC-Camp 13B- Japanese WO's and NCO's

9. Appropriate transfers were authorised to comply with these requirements, and arrangements were made for the careful classificati of all Japanese later to be transferred to permanent camps from Gaythorne, Queensland, to enable allocation to appropriate camps.

TRANSFERS OVERSEAS

10. Instructions for the transfer overseas of PW were in all cases issued by Army Headquarters. All matters of particular importance in these instructions are dealt with in Part II Chapter 23. relating to the disposal of PW. It will be appreciated that in each shipment slight variations were necessary as a result of the composition of the party concerned and the place to which transfer was to be effected. In general, however, the basis for instructions was the procedure adopted by the United Kingdom in relation to transfers from one holding country to another vide Appendix 17 .

CHAPTER 14

RATIONS AND SPECIAL ISSUES FOR P.W.

CONVENTION REQUIREMENTS.

1. Article 11 of the P.W. Convention provided that:-

(a) The food ration of PW was to be equivalent in quantity and quality to that of the depot troops.

(b) PW were to be afforded the means of preparing for themselves such additional articles of food as they may possess.

(c) Sufficient drinking water was to be supplied to them.

(d) The use of tobacco was to be authorised.

(e) PW could be employed in kitchens.

(f) All collective disciplinary measures affecting food were prohibited.

REGULATIONS.

2. The Convention requirements were covered by National Security (PW) Regulations, vide Regulations 15 and 16, Appendix. 12 It will be noted that PW were to be permitted to smoke only at tim and places approved by the Camp Commandant or by an officer authorised by him.

COMMUTATION OF RATIONS.

3. The method adopted for the commutation of rations for various nationalities is dealt with in PART I Chapter 19 of this report. As mentioned in that Chapter, the form of variation in most alterations to standard rations was a reduction in the quantity of meat and the substitution of farinaceous and bulkier foods. By this means, the actual quantity received by PW was at least the equivalent, or exceeded the rations of garrison personnel. In making commutations no adjustments of foodstuffs rationed to the civilian population of Australia was permitted which would result in the provision of quantities in excess of the ration for AMF personnel stationed in the Area.

UNITED KINGDOM ATTITUDE ON RATIONS.

4. The United Kingdom Authorities expressed some concern at the existing position whereby PW who were sent to Australia on their behalf were fed on a scale appreciably in excess of what they would receive in the United Kingdom. The standard diet for PW there was that applicable to British Depot troops at home engaged on sedentary duties, subject to modifications in detail, where possible, to meet national tastes.

5. It was contended that the PW in Australia should be treated on a similar basis, as they were really held on behalf of the United Kingdom, and in support of this argument it was stated that there was no evidence that the German or Italian Governments differentiated in any way in the matter of rations for United Kingdom and Australian prisoners.

6. In replying to this proposal, it was pointed out that while, as a matter of domestic arrangement, the Commonwealth conformed with the general policy adopted by the United Kingdom Government in respect of the treatment of PW, it was considered that the Commonwealth as a signatory must observe the fundamental requirements of the Convention, especially in respect of food,

clothing and accommodation for all PW held in Australia, irrespective of the place of capture or by whom they were captured.

ISSUES OF RAZOR BLADES.

7. The practice adopted in the Commonwealth was to issue free to all PW one razor blade per week subject to surrender of the worn blade. This issue was considered desirable and justified in that it assisted the maintenance of PW cleanliness and morale. A similar issue was made to all Australian troops.

8. Under Camp Order No. 13, para 15(2), PW were not permitted to retain in their possession, any spare blades for safety razors of approved patterns held by them.

9. It was ascertained in 1942 that some PW were able to purchase blades through their canteens, in addition to those issued to them, and these sales were stopped until 1944 when, on representations from the United Kingdom, the free issue of blades ceased and supplies were made available for purchase through canteens.

10. Free issues for Japanese other rank PW were later reinstated as all PW were required to shave daily, and the Japanese had no funds from which to purchase blades. This action was considered necessary to maintain discipline and to ensure that the value of identification from photographs was preserved.

ISSUES OF CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO.

11. In accordance with advice on Empire policy from the United Kingdom, free issues of cigarettes were made to Italian PW Other Ranks on the basis of -

35 cigarettes or 35 grams of tobacco per week,

but these issues were stopped during periods of detention. No free issues were made to German PW. In order to assist in the administration of Japanese PW, Other Ranks held at Gaythorne, Queensland, and Cowra, New South Wales, were given similar issues at the discretion of Camp Commandants. Free issues were continued while paid employment was not available for the PW concerned and were withdrawn on any failure by PW to co-operate with the camp authorities in the proper performance of their camp duties. Precautions were taken in all cases to ensure that purchases of tobacco, etc. by PW, plus their free issues, did not exceed the AMF ration scale.

ISSUES OF BEER AND WINE.

12. Under Camp Order No. 13 (para 46), PW were prohibited from having or consuming any spiritous or fermented liquor except for the purpose of performing bona-fide religious duties or when a Camp Medical Officer had certified in writing that it was necessary for their health, but special provision was made in para 47 of the Order for supplies of beer in bulk or dry and white wines having a maximum spirit content of 25 per centum, to be made available to PW Officers' Messes with the approval of Camp Commandants and at the expense of the PW concerned. This policy was adopted on advices being received which indicated that Allied PW in Germany were being permitted to purchase beer and light wines in canteens..

13. Supplies were regulated by Camp Commandants to prevent any unnecessary danger to security and Senior Officer PW in each camp were informed that any abuse of the privilege would lead to immediate revocation of permission to make further purchases.

GENERAL.

14. It should be noted that although ration scales for non-European PW can be drawn up with due regard for their national diets, care should be exercised to ensure that such diet scales do not continue to include commodities which become very scarce as the war progresses.

CHAPTER 15

CLOTHING AND NECESSARIES FOR P.W.

CONVENTION REQUIREMENTS.

1. Article 12 of the PW Convention, inter-alia, reads:-

> "Clothing, underwear and footwear shall be supplied to prisoners of war by the detaining Power. The regular replacement and repair of such articles shall be assured. Workers shall also receive working kit wherever the nature of the work requires it."

REGULATIONS GOVERNING ISSUES.

2. To implement the Convention requirements concerning clothing etc., the following provisions were included in National Security (PW) Regulations:-

(a) PW were to be permitted to wear their own clothing and to arrange for necessary replacement of articles of attire.

(b) When necessary, clothing, underwear and footwear was to be issued to PW other than officers and persons of equivalent status who were in receipt of pay.

(c) Facilities were to be afforded to PW for the maintenance and repair of clothing and footwear.

(d) PW were to be permitted to wear their badges of rank and decorations.

PROCEDURE.

3. The issue of appropriate scales of issue and the supply of clothing and other necessaries were the responsibility of the Master-General of the Ordnance. The Directorate, however, was responsible for the implementation of the Convention and therefore was obliged to ensure that appropriate instructions were issued and supplies made available as necessary, and that there were no departures from Convention requirements. Certain administrative instructions were issued by the Directorate to supplement MGO directions on this subject, and constant liaison was maintained wit the United Kingdom on all matters of policy.

4. In the early stages of the war, a number of directions for issues were sent to Commands concerned in the administration of PW. These reached such proportions, as policy was gradually determined in respect of various classes of PW, that it was found necessary to have all the existing instructions consolidated into a complete directive in May 1945. This comprehensive document which substantially remained in force until PW were finally repatriated, is attached to the report as Appendix. 18. It covers the following matters:-

(a) Standardised clothing for officers and other ranks of each nationality.

(b) Scales of issues of clothing and necessaries for each nationality and class of PW held in camps.

(c) Scales of issues for PW employed in rural industry.

(d) Scales of issues for PW (Formosan) Labour Detachments employed in tropical areas outside Australia.

(e) Procedure for payment for issues to PW receiving pay.

(f) Conditions relating to free issues.

(g) Accounting procedure.

5. As the reader will be able to refer to the above consolidated instruction regarding issues, there is little need to enlarge upon the subject in this Chapter except to deal with special aspects of interest.

MANUFACTURE OF OFFICER PATTERN UNIFORMS.

6. Towards the end of 1941 it was found that many Italian and German officers required replacements of their uniforms. Arrangements were then made for a representative of the Commonwealth Clothing Factory to visit camps to obtain measurements. Completed uniforms, to be made in a venetian grey material, were estimated to cost approx £5 each. Some delays were caused by problems of supplies etc., but these were finally overcome and uniforms of a satisfactory type were produced and supplied. Japanese officers were supplied with magenta dyed AMF uniforms only, but were permitted to wear any of their own national uniforms they possessed.

ISSUES TO MERCHANT SEAMEN PW.

7. In accordance with Empire practice, both officers and Other Ranks Merchant Seamen were provided with free issues of clothing and necessaries as set out in the consolidated instruction referred to in paragraph 4 above. This action was necessary for the reason that the Merchant Seamen Officers did not receive pay as in the case of other PW Officers.

BED LINEN FOR CERTAIN OTHER RANK PW.

8. On a reciprocal basis arranged with the German Government, the issue of bed linen was approved for German other rank PW recommended for repatriation by the Mixed Medical Commission and German other rank protected personnel. These supplies were, of course, made available to German and Italian PW officers under the normal scales of Accommodation Stores for PW as fixed by MGO Branch, and changes were made fortnightly.

CLOTHING RATIONING.

9. On the introduction of clothing rationing in Australia in 1942, administrative instructions were issued by the Directorate concerning PW and Internees. In regard to PW, the following principles were followed in an attempt to limit purchases as far as practicable :-

(a) OFFICER PW. No ration books were issued. Normal clothing was made available to them at vocabulary rates through Departmental channels but where essential items such as pyjamas, etc. could not be provided through such channels, PW made special requests which were referred by Commands concerned to Deputy Directors of Rationing for authority to purchase from civilian channels. Every effort was made to keep requests of this nature to a minimum.

(b) OTHER RANKS PW. No ration books were issued. The purch of clothing by or for PW Other Ranks from PW Camp Canteens, through Camp Commandants, or through any other source was prohibited, except that requests could be made for purchase of pyjamas. These requests were dealt with as in the case of special requests by Officers.

152

CHAPTER 16

PAY FOR ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR

1. This subject is closely allied with the control of prisoner of war funds but any attempt to treat both matters under one heading would tend to cause confusion in the mind of the reader. It is therefore proposed to deal in this Chapter with the arrangements under which rates of pay for various classes of PW were determined, the Orders made to implement the pay policy and the reason for various amendments to rates. General matters concerning the establishment of cash accounts, withdrawals and remittances, etc. of PW are covered in PART II Chapter..

Convention requirements regarding pay.

2. Article 23 of the Geneva Convention provided that subject to any special arrangements made between belligerent Powers, officers and persons of equivalent status who were PW should receive from the detaining Power the same pay as officers of corresponding rank in the armed forces of that Power, provided, however, that such pay did not exceed that to which they were entitled in the armed forces of the country in whose service they had been. This pay was to be paid to the PW in full, once a month if possible, and no deduction therefrom was to be made for expenditure devolving upon the detaining Power even if such expenditure was incurred on their behalf. Special provision was made in Article 13 of the Wounded and Sick Convention for pay of protected personnel to be calculated on the basis of that payable to corresponding personnel in the forces of the detaining Power.

3. Article 23 also provided for agreements made between belligerents to prescribe rates of exchange applicable to payments, and in default of any such agreement, the rate of exchange adopted was to be that in force at the moment of the commencement of hostilities.

4. All advances made to PW by way of pay were to be reimbursed, at the end of hostilities, by the Power in whose service they were.

National Security Regulations regarding pay.

5. Under Reg 27 of National Security (Prisoners of War) Regulations, the Minister for the Army was empowered to make orders fixing rates of pay to be credited to PW in accordance with the Convention or with agreements between belligerents. This Regulation also required that payments due to PW should be made at least once a month by crediting the amounts due to their cash accounts, vide PART II Chapter ..

Fixation of Rates.

6. The rates fixed for each class of PW held in Australia are given in the following paragraphs.

German PW Officers (Combatant).

7. Under a reciprocal agreement with Germany, German Officers and persons of equivalent status, other than protected personnel, were paid in accordance with the statement hereunder. These rates were first fixed in September 1941 by a "Payment of Officer Prisoners of War Order No.1" which was later revoked and replaced by the "Prisoners of War (Pay Arrangements) Order."

German Ranks (including equivalent status)

Army	Navy	Air Force	Equivalent British Rank	Rate per mont (Aust currenc
OBERST	KAPITAN-ZUR-SEE	OBERST	COLONEL	£12.10. 0
OBERST LEUTNANT	FREGATTEN-KAPITAN	OBERST-LEUTNANT	LIEUTENANT COLONEL	£10. 0. 0
MAJOR	KORVETTEN-KAPITAN	MAJOR	MAJOR	£9. 0. 0
HAUPTMANN or RITTMEISTER	KAPITAN-LEUTNANT	HAUPTMANN	CAPTAIN	£8. 0. 0
OBERLEUTNANT	OBERLEUTNANT-ZUR-SEE	OBERLEUTNANT	LIEUTENANT	£6.15. 0
LEUTNANT	LEUTNANT-ZUR-SEE	LEUTNANT	2ND LIEUTENANT	£6. 0. 0

NOTES: (i) It will be observed that exchange rates to convert payments to Australian currency have been added in the above table.

(ii) The rates stated were calculated on an exchange basis of 15 Reichmarks to £1 sterling as agreed with Germany in 1940. On 1 Sep 45 the rate of exchange was fixed at 4CRM to £1 sterling and the rates of pay were then reduced accordingly, ranging from £4.13.9 (Aust) for Colonels down to £2.5.0 (Aust) for Second Lieutenants.

8. German Protected Personnel Officers.

Under the reciprocal arrangement with Germany referred to above, rates of pay for German Officer Protected Personnel were fixed at the same figure as that applied to combatant officers, and the rates stated were effective until 1 Sep 45. On that date, as a result of the alteration in exchange rates, reductions were made in Australian payments on the same basis as those for combatant officers.

9. German PW Other Ranks.

(a) Protected personnel. These PW were paid the following rates under reciprocal arrangements with Germany:-

German Rank	Equivalent British Rank	Rate per month (Aust currency)
OBER-FELDWEBEL	Sergeant-Major	£5. 0. 0
FELDWEBEL	Sergeant	£4.10. 0
UNTER-FELDWEBEL	Lance-Sergeant	£3.15. 0
UNTER-OFFIZIER	Corporal	£3.10. 0
GEFREITER	Lance Corporal	£3. 0. 0
SCHUTZE	Private	£2.10. 0

NOTE: The reduction in German exchange rates as from 1 Sep 45 reduced the above figures as from that date to from £1.17. 6(Aust) for Sergeant-Majors down to 18/9 (Aust) for Privates.

(b) Combatant Other Ranks. In the absence of any reciprocal arrangements concerning these PW, no service pay was made available to them. The German attitude towards any approaches made concerning payments to other ranks Allied PW was so unsatisfactory that the United Kingdom authorities were unable to recommend any payments. Proposals were made on several occasions but the Germans did not co-operate and finally it was suggested to them that at least those of non-commissioned officer rank should be paid. This proposal had the concurrence of all Services in Australia, but was not successful. German Other Rank PW in Australia did however receive allowances from the German Government. These were paid through the Swiss Consul at Melbourne and were at the monthly rates of £3. 2. 6 for Sergeants and above and £1.17. 6 for Corporals and below.

10. Italian PW Officers (Combatant).

On advice from the United Kingdom early in 1941, rates of pay for Italian PW Officers were at first fixed at the following rates :-

Rank	Rate (Aust currency)
Majors and Superior Ranks	£6. 5. 0 per month
Captains	£5. 0. 0 " "
Lieutenants and 2nd Lieutenants	£3.15. 0 " "

These rates were based on a suggested agreement with Italy under which payments should be greatly restricted as in the case of German PW, but the Italian Government would not agree to the proposal and rates were fixed up to 30 Jun 42 in accordance with the table below, necessary adjustments being made to make the rates retrospective. The net rate shown was calculated after deducting messing charges at the rate of 4/6 sterling per day (£8.11. 1 Aust. per month) under special arrangement with the Italian Government. Exchange rates adopted for conversion were 72 lire to £1 sterling.

ITALIAN RANKS (INCLUDING EQUIVALENT STATUS)

Army	Navy	Air Force	Equivalent Brit. Army Rank	Rate per month (Aust currency)	Net Rate after deduction Messing Charges
COLONNELLO	CAPITANO DI VASCELLO	COLONNELLO	Colonel	£27.15. 7	£19. 4.
TENENTE COLONNELLO	CAPITANO DI FREGATA	TENENTE COLONNELLO	Lt-Colonel	£24. 6. 1	£15.15.
MAGGIORE PRIMO CAPITANO CAPITANO	CAPITANO DI CORVETTE	MAGGIORE	Major	£22.11. 5	£14. 0.
PRIMO TENENTE	TENENTE DI VASCELLO	CAPITANO	Captain	£19. 1. 3	£10.10.
TENENTE	SOTTOTENENTE DI VASCELLO	TENENTE	Lieutenant	£16. 9.11	£7.18.1
SOTTO TENENTE	GUARDIA-MARINA	SOTTO TENENTE	Second Lieutenant	£13. 0. 5	£4. 9.

The rates were altered on 1 July 42 on information received from the United Kingdom that the costs of messing of British Officers in the hands of Italy had substantially increased. The Italian Government was informed that as from that date the messing charge for Italian Officers would be 6/- (sterling) per day. Action was then taken to approach Italy with a proposal that charges made by their Government should be limited to 15 lire per day upon which charges made against Italian officer PW would be reduced to 4/-(sterling) per day as from a date to be mutually agreed upon. This proposal was agreed to and an adjustment was made retrospectively as from 1 Jul 42 to the rates given above by reducing the monthly messing charge from £8.11. 1 to £7.12. 1 and thus increasing each of the net rates of pay by 19/- as from that date.

11. Italian Protected Personnel Officers.

Italian Protected Personnel Officers were first paid in accordance with advice from the United Kingdom, at the equivalent of RAMC rates, ranging from £98.17. 1 (sterling) for Lieut-Colonels down to £37.14.1 for Lieutenants but they were permitted to draw reduced rates if they so desired. However, under arrangements made with Italy their pay was later made up to their full entitlement and messing charges were adjusted as in the case of combatant officers. The following is a table of rates up to 30 Jun 42 after which date 19/- (Aust) was added to each rate to adjust messing charges.

Italian Rank	Equivalent British Army Rank.	Rate per month (Australian Currency)	Net rate per month (Australian Currency)
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Tenente Colonnello	Lieutenant-Colonel		
Medico	Medical officer	98. 17. 1	90. 6. 0
Dentista	Dental officer	94. 14. 8	86. 3. 7
Farmacista	Officer chemist	81. 14. 11	73. 3. 10
Capellano	Chaplain	68. 15. 1	60. 4. 0
Maggiore	Major		
Medico	Medical officer	64. 12. 8	56. 1. 7
Dentista	Dental officer	60. 4. 0	51. 12. 11
Farmacista	Officer chemist	54. 3. 7	45. 12. 6
Capellano	Chaplain	51. 12. 10	43. 1. 9
Capitano	Captain		
Medico	Medical officer	46. 11. 6	38. 0. 5
Dentista	Dental officer	43. 1. 10	34. 10. 9
Farmacista	Officer chemist	31. 7. 4	22. 16. 3
Capellano	Chaplain	29. 3. 0	20. 11. 11
Tenente	Lieutenant		
Medico	Medical officer	37. 14. 1	29. 3. 0
Dentista	Dental officer	34. 10. 8	25. 19. 7
Farmacista	Officer chemist	24. 14. 3	16. 3. 2
Sotto Tenente	Second Lieutenant		
Farmacista	Officer chemist	20. 18. 3	12. 7. 2

NOTE: Rates of pay for Chemists, Dentists and Chaplains were arranged at the special request of the United Kingdom authorities.

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NAJ 6 Feb 62

12. Italian PW Other Ranks.

(a) Protected Personnel. Other Ranks Protected Personnel were also paid at the equivalent of RAMC rates under an agreement with Italy but no adjustments were made for messing charges as in the case of officers. These rates (given below) were effective until 30 Sep 42 after which date, in the absence of an assurance that Italy was paying similar rates to allied PW of the same status, they were reduced to the rates applicable to Italian combatant other ranks, vide sub-para (b)below.

Rates up to 30 Sept 42 were :-

Italian Rank	Equivalent British Army Rank.	Rate per month (Australian Currency) £ s. d.
Maresciallo Maggiore) Maresciallo Capo)	Regimental Sergeant-Major	23. 15. 3
Sergente Maggiore	W.O.II, C.S.M.	17. 2. 2
Sergente) Capo Squadra)	Sergeant	12. 7. 2
Caporale Maggiore) Vice Capo Squadra)	Corporal	8. 11. 1
Caporale) Camicia Nera Scelta)	Lance Corporal	7. 2. 7
Soldato) Camicia Nera)	Private	4. 15. 0

(b) Combatant personnel. Rates for combatant Italian other ranks were fixed by agreement with Italy as in the table below. These rates were also applied to other rank protected personnel on and after 1 Oct 42 vide sub-para (a) above. No alterations were made to these rates.

Italian Rank	Equivalent British Army Rank.	Rate of pay in Australian Currency.
Maresciallo Maggiore) Maresciallo Capo)	Regimental Sergeant-Major	Ten shillings and five pence per three weeks payable as follows:- First week - three shillings and sixpence.
Sergente Maggiore Sergente Capo Squadra	W.O.II., C.S.M. Sergeant	Second week - three shillings and sixpence. Third week - three shillings and fivepence.
Caporale Maggiore) Vice Capo Squadra)	Corporal	Fourteen shillings and seven pence per six weeks payable as follows:-
Caporale) Camicia Nera Scelta)	Lance Corporal	First to fifth-two shillings weeks inclusive. and five pence per week.
Soldato) Camicia Nera)	Private	Sixth week - two shillings and six pence

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13. Japanese PW Officers (Combatant). Although the Japanese Government did not ratify the PW Convention, advice was received that Japan had undertaken to observe the terms of the Convention in respect of British (including Australian) PW. Proposals submitted by the United Kingdom to Japan concerning matters which should form the basis of reciprocal agreements were ignored and a general directive was issued by the UK Authorities including rates of pay for Japanese Officer PW, based on the lowest rates for corresponding RAMC, Naval or Air Force medical ranks. Rates were subject to a messing charge of £2 per month which was charged to each PW cash account and charges were also made for the cost of clothing, underwear and footwear supplied. Rates up to 1 May 46 under this arrangement were as follows:-

Japanese Commissioned Officers			Equivalent British Army Rank.	Rate of pay per month in Australian currency.
Army	Navy	Air Force		£ s. d.
RIKUGUN TAISHO	KAIGUN TAISHO	KOKUHEI (or Kugun) TAISHO	General	39 14 10½
RIKUGUN CHUJO	KAIGUN CHUJO	KOKUHEI (or KUGUN) CHUJO	Lieutenant-General	34 18 6½
RIKUGUN SHOSHO	KAIGUN SHOSHO	KOKUHEI (or KUGUN) SHOSHO	Major-General	30 2 2
RIKUGUN TAISA	KAIGUN TAISA	KOKUHEI (or KUGUN) TAISA	Colonel	22 8 -½
RIKUGUN CHUSA	KAIGUN CHUSA	KOKUHEI (or KUGUN) CHUSA	Lieutenant-Colonel	15 18 0½
RIKUGUN SHOSA	KAIGUN SHOSA	KOKUHEI (or KUGUN) SHOSA	Major	12 5 1
RIKUGUN TAI-I	KAIGUN TAI-I	KOKUHEI (or KUGUN) TAI-I	Captain	8 17 1
RIKUGUN CHU-I	KAIGUN CHU-I	KOKUHEI (or KUGUN) CHU-I	Lieutenant	6 2 9½
RIKUGUN SHO-I	KAIGUN SHO-I	KOKUHEI (or KUGUN) SHO-I	Second-Lieutenant	5 2 5

After 1 May 46, on advices received from the United Kingdom, the rates of exchange adopted in arriving at the above figures were altered drastically throughout Empire countries. The new rate adopted was 60 yen to £1 sterling and this resulted in substantial reductions which, however, did not affect Australia to any great extent, as most Japanese PW were either repatriated or were about to be repatriated at that time.

14. Japanese Protected Personnel (Officers). As it was not possible to confirm that British protected personnel held by the Japanese were being granted full rates of pay, Japanese protected personnel were at first paid only the rates applicable to combatant Japanese officers. As Japan ratified the Sick & Wounded Convention, the United Kingdom

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NIP 6 Feb 62

requested that Japanese protected personnel should be credited with their full entitlement of pay applicable to corresponding ranks of the Australian Military Forces. Rates then arranged retrospectively were as follows :-

Japanese Rank	Equivalent Australian Army Rank.	Rate per month (Australian currency)	
		Period up to and including 13th August 1942.	Period from 14th August 1942.
Taisa	Colonel	£69.19. 1	£70.14. 4
Chusa	Lieutenant-Colonel	58.11. 0	59. 6. 3
Shosa	Major	47. 2.11	47.18. 2
Tai-i	Captain	35.14. 9	36.10. 0
Chu-i	Lieutenant	24. 6. 8	25. 1.11
Sho-i	2nd Lieutenant	24. 6. 8	25. 1.11

The officers concerned were not permitted to spend or withdraw all of the amounts credited to them in accordance with this scale. They were permitted to use only the equivalent of monthly rates of pay of combatant personnel of the Japanese Army, ranging from £22. 8. 0 for Colonels to £5. 2. 5 for Second Lieutenants.

15. Japanese Other Ranks PW.

(a) Protected Personnel. In accordance with the wishes of the United Kingdom, Japanese other ranks protected personnel were also paid the equivalent of AMF rates for corresponding ranks, but no deduction was of course made for messing charges. Rates fixed were :-

Japanese Rank	Equivalent Australian Rank	Rate per month (Australian Currency)	
		Period up to and including 13 Aug 42.	Period from 14 Aug 42.
JUNI	Warrant Officer Class I	£21. 5.10	£22. 1. 1
SOCHO	" " Class 2	18. 5. 0	19. 0. 3
GUNSO	Sergeant	16. 4. 7	17. 9.10
GOCHO	Corporal	15. 4. 2	15.19. 5
JOTCHEI) ITTCHEI) NITCHEI)	Private	9. 2. 6	9.17. 9

(b) Combatant Other Ranks. In the absence of any undertaking by Japan to pay other rank combatant PW, these PW were not credited with any pay while held by the Commonwealth.

Crediting of Pay to Cash Accounts.

16. Accountancy Instructions Part V Chapter II (Appendix 15) and administrative instructions issued concerning pay due to PW held in Australia made provision for all amounts due to be paid at least once a month to the credit of PW cash accounts.

Camp Paymasters were directed to inform PW of the amount credited on each occasion and to obtain appropriate signatures. Accountancy procedure in relation to these credits is set out fully in the Accountancy Instructions referred to.

Stoppages of Pay.

17. Under agreements with enemy governments concerned the following principles were followed in regard to stoppages of PW pay :-

(a) Detention and Escapes. During periods while PW were serving detention or sentences of imprisonment pay was not stopped in the case of Italian PW but was stopped for other PW.

(b) Barracks Damages. Camp Commandants were to investigate charges relating to losses or damage to Government property, vide Reg. 50A., and were to assess against any PW concerned the amount of the loss or damage sustained for adjustment against his cash account or against money subsequently despatched to or earned by him. Records of any such assessments were to be kept for despatch, if required, to Enemy Governments at a later date. Collective deductions for barracks damages were NOT permitted.

CHAPTER 17

PROTECTED PERSONNEL

1. Articles 9 and 10 of the International Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field, signed at Geneva in 1929 (vide Appendix..1..) defines protected personnel. These comprise:-

(a) Personnel engaged exclusively in the collection, transport and treatment of the wounded and sick, and in the administrati of medical formations and establishments,

(b) Chaplains attached to armies,

(c) Soldiers especially trained to be employed, in case of necessity, as auxiliary nurses or stretcher-bearers for the collection, transport and treatment of the wounded and sick, provided they are furnished with proof of identity,

(d) Personnel of Voluntary Aid Societies, duly authorised and recognised by their government, who are employed on duties similar to those referred to in (a) above, provided that such personnel are subject to military law and regulations.

2. Under the Convention these personnel are to be sent back to t belligerent from whom they are captured as soon as a route for their return becomes available and military considerations permit. As it was recognised when drawing up the Convention that some delays would be inevitable before protected personnel could be returned, provision was made in Article 12 for them to carry out their duties under the directio of the enemy; preferably in the care of the wounded and sick of the belligerent to which they belong. The Italian Government signified its consent to its own nationals who were captured protected personnel being retained in PW camps to provide services for their fellow PW.

3. Protected personnel, except those referred to in para 1 (c) above, were to wear on the left arm an armlet bearing the prescribed distinctive medical sign and all were to be provided with a certificate o identity. In the case of military personnel this certificate was to be in the form of an entry in the soldier's pay-book or a special document. For others, a certificate from the competent military authorities was necessary, with a photograph, certifying their status as medical

personnel. Article 21 of the Convention made special provision that all armlets and certificates should remain in the possession of the personnel concerned at all times.

4. Arrangements were made for the recognition of any protected personnel received in Australia as PW and for them to be accorded appropriate status and to enjoy certain defined privileges. Where PW claimed protected personnel status but were not in possession of requisite certificates, they were informed that they should apply, through their protecting Power representative, to their own Government, for duplicates of certificates. Some certificates produced were not in accordance with the Convention provisions and under those circumstances protected personnel status could not be recognised.

5. The treatment of protected personnel held in Australia varied according to nationalities:-

(a) JAPANESE. Although Japan did not ratify her signature to the PW Convention she was a ratified signatory to the Sick and Wounded Convention. It was considered that the average Japanese medical officer would be unlikely to incite PW to resistance and violence, but that there undoubtedly would be some who would regard their conception of patriotic duty as mo important than the preservation of noncombatant status. Accordingly, Japanese MO's were not used for medical duties at staging camps, and at permanent camps only those properly vetted were used to perform services to other rank PW. They were not used in the hospitals. The purpose of these precautions was to minimise the possibility of Japanese MO's acting as trouble makers or as channels of illicit communication, particularly between officers and other ranks, and yet to conform sufficiently with the Convention to avoid protests by Japan. All enquiries regarding policy were therefore handled by the Directorate.

Pay as from the date of capture was payable to Japanese Protected Personnel in accordance with rates authorised by PW (Japanese Protected Personnel Pay) Order. Rates were based on similar ranks in the AMF.

delete all sub para (a) less "JAPANESE"
C-

(b) GERMANS. At the special request of the German Government, the pay of German protected personnel was issued at specially reduced rates ~~in operation in the German Armed Forces~~, converted into sterling at the rates of exchange agreed upon (vide Part II chapter 1) ~~of R.W. 15 to 61.~~

The following special privileges were granted:-

OFFICERS. Those attached for duty at Other Rank camps were accommodated and treated appropriately to their statu They were supplied with batmen and special facilities were given them for sleeping, messing, washing, etc. Subject to supervision they were permitted to attend PW patients at camp hospitals and R.A.P. huts. Walks on parole were permitted, under special conditions, once in each week. They were also permitted to send double the normal number of letters and postcards prescribed by correspondence orde

OTHER RANKS. Any other rank protected personnel required to perform normal duties in respect of PW of their own nationality were exempted from the performance of camp fatigues. Subject to good behaviour they were permitted twice in each week to take a recreational walk not exceeding two hours, accompanied by guards. Additional correspondence facilities were given them under PW (Correspondence) Orders. They were also provided with bed linen.

(c) ITALIANS.

OFFICERS. Pay was calculated at the rates for officers of corresponding ranks in comparable services in the United Kingdom Forces. Special facilities applicable to German PW were available to them and their Chaplains were permitted to attend Churches within a three mile radius of the camps.

OTHER RANKS. These personnel originally received pay calculated on the basis of that for corresponding ranks in the United Kingdom Forces. Failure of the Italian Government to pay more than the pocket money rates for combatant PW to Australian PW held in Italy necessitated

a reduction to that basis at a later stage. Privileges applicable to German other rank protected personnel were granted except for the provision of bed linen, and they could be drafted out to Control Centres for employment if their services were not required at camps.

6. The repatriation of protected personnel held in Australia presented a problem requiring careful handling. The following positio was apparent.

deleted less "ITALIANS"

ITALIANS

Total protected personnel held		622
Less Some whose repatriation was not necessary -		
War Correspondent	1	
Chemists	23	24
Balance		598
Number required to be retained in Australia for essential duties:		
Doctors	10	
Medical Orderlies	50	
Chaplains	6	
Dental Officers	2	
Dental Orderly	1	69
Number available for repatriation		529

GERMANS

Total protected personnel held		22
Of whom it was necessary to retain -		
Doctors	4	
Medical Orderlies	15	19
Number available for repatriation		3

7. Opportunity offered in March 1943 for ~~a first~~ an exchange of Mixed Medical cases and protected personnel with the Italian Government vide chapter 23 In this shipment the whole of the available surplus of Italian protecte personnel held were embarked. Actually the numbers slightly exceeded the estimate given above, and 92 officers and 455 other ranks were transferred, leaving about 75 protected personnel in Australia. Those remaining were shipped with PW sent in August 1945 and with the various shipments towards the end of 1946 when all Italian PW were repatriated.

8. In July 1943, 4 German officers and 2 other ranks were embarked as protected personnel, for repatriation. The remainder were retained until the general repatriation of German PW was effected in January 1947.

9. Japanese protected personnel were retained in Australia until the general repatriation of Japanese PW was effected.

10. The subject of protected personnel has not been dealt with fully in this report. The many problems associated with identificatio and treatment could not be adequately covered without unduly lengthening this particular chapter out of all proportion, and it is considered that the information given is sufficient for the purpose of the report.

CHAPTER 18

MARRIAGES OF PRISONERS OF WAR

1. The general policy adopted in the Commonwealth in respect of marriages of PW with Australian women was to refuse all such applications in conformity with Empire practice.

2. No difficulties were experienced in relation to German PW as these PW were held within or near their camps and had little or no opportunity to develop contacts with the civilian population. However, when the Rural Employment Scheme was initiated for Italian PW consideration had to be given to the problem in the light of knowledge that fraternisation between PW and civilians would be inevitable. It was considered in the public interest that this fraternisation should be strictly discouraged, and accordingly any applications for permission to marry were refused. This action was in accordance with the attitude adopted by the United Kingdom authorities in Britain, in which connection the following extract from a monthly summary of action taken by His Majesty's Government for the month of May 1944 is quoted for information:

> "Refusal of permission for co-operators to marry British women.
>
> Hitherto the policy has been to refuse permission for Italian PW to marry British women resident in this country. In view of the greater liberty to be allowed to co-operators, the question was considered whether the policy should be modified in their favour. It was decided that permission for co-operators to marry British women should still be refused."

3. Until 1946 a strict policy was maintained of refusing all applications by Italian PW for permission to marry but by that time the position had changed in that all Italian PW had been withdrawn from rural employment and hence were removed from the possibility of easy contact with the civilian populace, and the opportunity for the establishment of liaisons culminating in requests for marriage were expected to become almost non-existent. It was therefore considered necessary to request a Ministerial direction as to whether marriages between Italian PW and Australian residents should be permitted.

4. This action was precipitated by representations from the Apostolic Delegate in Australia who stated that he would, if necessary, take up the matter with the Vatican to obtain the consent of the Italian authorities to such marriages.

5. At this stage the Minister for Immigration had stated that as far as his Department was concerned no objection would be raised to PW being permitted to remain in Australia under exemption for 12 months to enable them to be married to Australian women, at the end of which period the PW could be considered for permanent residence.

6. Ministerial approval was given in principle to marriages under certain specified conditions, each application by a PW to be submitted to the Minister with full details for a final decision. Action was thereupon taken to ascertain from Commands concerned the names of PW who desired to contract marriages, and a small number of applications were received.

7. It became apparent that 2 PW had been married to Australian women whilst escapees in Australia, and 4 others, 3 of whom had been escapees, desired to contract marriages; the remaining PW had been for a long period in rural employment. The bona fides of the applications of these latter 4 PW were given full consideratio and approval was finally given for their marriages, and where necessa leave was granted to them to enable marriages to be effected.

8. The original intention of the Commonwealth had been to repatriate all PW and not to permit any Australian wives to accompany them on the repatriation vessels. This policy was, however, relaxed to the extent that with the approval of the Minister for Immigration, 3 PW who were ex-escapees were permitted to take their Australian wives with them on the last repatriation vessel.

9. The question of the return of Italian PW to the Commonwealth as immigrants is a matter for decision by the Minister for Immigration. It is noted that one of the PW married in Australia and returned to Italy without his wife has since made application for readmission to Australia, and that the Immigration authorities have agreed to consider any application made by his wife for his return to Australia after the Peace Treaty with Italy has been ratified by the Commonwealth.

10. After the general repatriation of German prisoners of wa had been effected in 1947, two German prisoner of war escapees were st at large in Australia and were not apprehended until September, 1949. of these had been married whilst an escapee. The other had completed arrangements for his wedding to take place during the week following h apprehension and submissions from both parties seeking permission for wedding to proceed were given consideration and approval was granted. ceremony was carried out at G.D.D. ROYAL PARK, where the prisoner of w as being held in custody.

CHAPTER 19.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS REGARDING P.W.

1. Although mention is made in other Chapters of this report concerning some of the many reciprocal agreements effected between belligerents, it is considered desirable to devote a short space to briefly outlining the major agreements in force during hostilities. These agreements will be referred to in Part IV of the report, dealing with treatment by the enemy of Australian and Allied PW.

WELFARE OF ~~THE~~ DEAF P.W.

2. Agreement was reached in 1943 between the International Red Cross, the British Red Cross and the Y.M.C.A. that a service should be set up for the benefit of deaf PW, the necessary technical advice to be furnished by the National Institute for the Deaf. The proposal was put to the German Government which agreed to authorise Y.M.C.A. Secretaries to investigate the needs of deaf PW on a reciprocal basis.

TREATMENT OF PROTECTED PERSONNEL

3. Both Germany and Italy agreed to reciprocal arrangements regarding special facilities for protected personnel, including an increase in the numbers of letters and postcards they should be permitted to send and the granting of approval under prescribed conditions, for personnel to take walks outside their camps. Details of these agreements are given in para 5 of Chapter (Part II) of the report.

SUPPLY OF BED LINEN FOR OFFICERS AND OTHERS

4. Under agreement with Germany provision was made for the changing and washing fornightly of bed linen supplied to officers in accordance with the Convention. In addition, on the basis of reciprocity, German other rank protected personnel and German PW recommended for repatriation by the Mixed Medical Commission were supplied with bed linen.

WALKS FOR OFFICER P.W.

5. The German Government indicated in 1942 its willingness to conclude reciprocal agreements on parole walks for officer PW and the Commonwealth agreed to proposals put forward by the United Kingdom that German officers should be permitted to take walks, collect firewood, do gardening and indulge in similar activities outside camps on parole, accompanied by one or where necessary more escorts to act as guide(s). The duration of parole under this scheme was not to exceed two hours and could be given once per week. Enquiries were made concerning Italian PW and advice was received from the United Kingdom that no reciprocal agreement had been reached with Italy but that similar conditions might be applied to Italian officer PW. This proposal was concurred in.

VIOLENT DEATHS AND INJURIES TO P.W.

6. Under a reciprocal agreement with Germany, action was to be taken, in cases of deaths by violence and severe woundings of PW, to institute an official investigation of the detailed circumstances of the happenings and in so doing other PW who had witnessed the events were to be brought forward as witnesses. After the holding of Courts of Inquiry under this scheme, statements of facts were to be furnished to the Protecting Power Representative . Action taken in Australia in relation to violent deaths and injuries to PW is dealt with in Part II Chapter 9 . It will be noted that the procedure adopted as a result of the agreement with Germany was applied to all PW.

DISPOSAL OF CREDIT BALANCES ON REPATRIATION OF P.W.

7. In 1941, on representations from the United Kingdom, Germany agreed that any repatriation credit balances should not be paid over to PW but should be notified to the Government concerned which would then be responsible for making payments to the individuals repatriated, adjustment between the two Governments being a matter for post-war settlement. Italy rejected a similar proposal stating that Article 77 of the Convention should be strictly enforced. It was noted, however, that in an early repatriation of British PW from Italy, only one received a notification of his credit balance and requests made on behalf of other Imperial repatriates failed to produce action for a long period. It will be observed that Accountancy Instructions (Appendix 15) made provision for full statements concerning balances due to all PW repatriated from Australia.

CORRESPONDENCE OF P.W.

8. Agreements between belligerents regarding the numbers of letters and postcards which PW should be permitted to send, and their use of air mail facilities, are dealt with fully in PART II. Chapter 5 .

NOTIFICATION OF CREDIT BALANCE OF DECEASED P.W.

9. In 1943 the War Office advised the conclusion of a reciprocal agreement with the German Government whereby the credit balances of the accounts of deceased PW should be notified to the deceaseds' Government through the representative of the Protecting Power. This action was taken in Australia by notification through the Department of External Affairs.

NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS OF P.W.

10. A proposal by the Imperial PW Committee in London for a reciprocal agreement with belligerents under which all deaths of PW would be telegraphed to the local International Red Cross Delegate for transmission to Geneva was supported by the Commonwealth. The German Government approved of this procedure and action was thereupon taken to notify the deaths of German PW in Australia. Pending a reply from Italy this arrangement was not applied to Italian PW. A later proposal was received that these advices should be transmitted direct to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva by PWIB's concerned, and following upon advices that the Italian Government had concurred under conditions of reciprocity clearly, of all German and Italian PW were notified direct.

SUPPLY OF GRAMOPHONE RECORDS FOR P.W.

11. The International Red Cross Committee made representations to the German Government that the Society should be permitted to send to British PW in Germany gramophone records which were to be manufactured, packed and despatched by one firm of guaranteed integrity in the United Kingdom. Each parcel was to bear a censorship stamp and an official Red Cross label. While the German authorities did not specifically agree to accept records without interfering with them they asked for full reciprocity and could therefore be assumed to have agreed to the proposal. The Commonwealth Government concurred and arrangements were made with the Australian Red Cross Society to act in conjunction with the Red Cross Committee in London in arranging the despatch of suitable records.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF PARCELS RECEIVED

12. In pursuance of a reciprocal agreement between the belligerents concerned, Camp Leaders of German PW Camps in Australia were permitted to furnish to the representative of the Protecting Power and to the International Red Cross Delegate in Australia, monthly statements showing the number, nature and origin of parcels or bulk supplies received from overseas sources.

HANDICRAFTS OF BLIND P.W.

13. An agreement was reached with Germany whereby blind PW would be permitted to send home their "handicrafts" through the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. German PW camp leaders in Australia were informed of this privilege but no blind German PW were held in the Commonwealth.

MIXED MEDICAL COMMISSION

14. Special reciprocal agreements were made with Germany concerning procedure for the examination of PW by Mixed Medical Commissions. These were incorporated in the procedure adopted by Commissions in Australia, vide PART III Chapter 3 .

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CHAPTER 20

FORMOSAN PW EMPLOYED IN NEW GUINEA

1. In November 1944, a suggestion was made by the Director that he should visit New Guinea for the purpose of examining the possibility of usefully employing in that area some or all of the Formosan PW held in Australia and numbering 1,500. It was considered that substantial economies in manpower could be effected and that as these PW would not be a serious security problem, they could be lightly guarded and held in simple camps for use as labour detachments. Employment could include a wide range of permissable tasks.

2. The Commander-in-Chief agreed in principle and directed that the scheme be developed in consultation with Headquarters First Aust Army for four labour detachments, each of 250 PW, to be made available for employment as follows:-

(i) Road construction and maintenance in Lae Base Sub Area.

(ii) Building in the same area.

(iii) Clearing in the same area.

(iv) General maintenance in the Moresby Area.

4. These PW were to be attached to a parent camp at Lae, for which a war establishment had been drawn up providing for 2 officer and 30 Other Ranks. In addition, for each detachment 2 officers and 20 Other Ranks were to be provided, including in each 10 supervisors and guards. The Lae camp had previously acted as a PW Transit Camp and steps were taken to have it remodelled to make it suitable for the combined functions of a transit camp for newly captured PW pending their movement to the mainland and a parent camp from which labour detachments would be administered.

5. To enable selections of PW and to instruct selected garrison personnel in handling them, an experienced Camp Commandant was moved from Gaythorne to New South Wales (COWRA). This officer was later posted as Camp Commandant of the Lae Camp.

6. Suitable garrison personnel for service in New Guinea became available by the reduction of war establishments at Cowra where one camp could be closed on transfer of the PW. Officers were chosen from a panel of names submitted by the proposed Camp Commandant for Lae.

7. Arrangements were then made for the issue of directions in respect of clothing and necessaries, and equipment, and for the supply of engineer stores and tents, etc. Approval was given for the establishment of the Lae Camp and for the transfer of four PW detachments of 250 each to be administered by First Aust Army. To assist in this administration copies of National Security (PW) Regulations and Camp Orders, Rules for procedure for trials of PW and all important and relevant administrative instructions issued by Army Headquarters, were forwarded to HQ, First Aust Army. Copies (photostat) of the PW Convention printed in Japanese were also forwarded for posting in labour detachments, to assist the PW in understanding the basis of Australia's treatment of PW.

8. Some delay occurred before movements were finally made and in the interim the small unit organised to administer the Lae Camp moved to Cowra and their training proceeded. Special attention was given to the instruction of guards and supervisors, and motor transport drivers were schooled in the use of 30 cwt. trucks and jeeps which were the types of vehicles to be used in New Guinea. Pending movement, the PW were employed on picking vegetables and were given physical training. Amenities supplied by the Red Cross and the YMCA were generous.

9. About 400 Formosan PW were moved with the AMF unit to Lae in April 1945 and of these about 150 were employed at Port Moresby. Further transfers of 100 (approx) and 500 (approx) were effected in June and August 1945 respectively, at the request of HQ First Aust Army, and the number employed at Port Moresby was increased to about 250.

10. Work performed by these PW was understood to be entirely satisfactory and no particular administrative problems arose. The PW were eventually repatriated from New Guinea in vessels provided by the Supreme Commander, Allied Powers.

CHAPTER 21

PW - GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. The following matters relating to PW administration can be appropriately dealt with under the heading of "General Administrative matters."

RECREATION

2. In accordance with Regulation 22 of National Security (PW) Regulations, provision was made at each PW camp for games and recreation. As indicated in Part II Chapter 12. facilities were given to representatives of bona fide welfare organisations to visit PW Camps for purposes directly connected with the spiritual, recreational, and educational activities of PW. These organisations performed excellent service in providing recreational facilities for the PW and the PW themselves showed every desire to take full advantage of the material supplied.

3. Action was also taken by the Directorate to ensure that Commands concerned in the administration of PW had, at their disposal at the camps, adequate recreational facilities for the PW and for the garrison troops guarding them. The Army Amenities Service rendered valuable assistance in this work.

4. Arrangements were made for the supply of current films for screening at camps. Small charges for admission of PW to these screenings were approved as a legitimate charge against accumulated canteen profits.

5. Where additional sporting equipment and other similar amenities could not be obtained locally, negotiations were undertaken for bulk purchase and issue to PW camps on repayments from canteen profits.

6. Libraries were also established at camps and became useful adjuncts to further the education of PW. Special attention is invited to the arrangements referred to in Part II Chapter 8. whereby German PW were supplied with books to assist their studies.

7. As a further facility, authority was issued for the installation of medium valve wireless apparatus at camps at the expense of PW, subject to control of programmes from outside compounds. Loud speakers in compounds were provided with cut-off switches which could be operated by the PW.

8. In all action taken to provide recreational facilities or to arrange provision from other sources, policy was based on the known fact that any failure to make adequate provision of these facilities would react to the detriment of Australian PW. Enemy PW were therefore given all possible facilities commensurate with security.

RELIGION.

9. PW were permitted complete freedom in the performance of their religious duties, including attendance at the services of their faith, on the sole condition that they complied with Regulations and Camp Orders, etc. PW Chaplains were given facilities to minister to PW of their own faith and in general

performed excellent work in uplifting and maintaining morale. They were supplemented by AMF Chaplains at camps who also performed good service both to the PW and garrison personnel.

10. Some Italian PW, on arrival in Australia, indicated very clearly that they did not desire service from PW Chaplains and under these circumstances the AMF Roman Catholic Chaplain attached to the Camp assumed responsibility for their spiritual welfare.

11. In addition to local facilities at camps for attending services, etc., Heads of Religious Denominations and one Deputy in each State were permitted to visit camps, vide Part II Chapter 12 (para 8).

PHOTOGRAPHS.

12. As in the case of internees, PW Regulations gave authority to Camp Commandants to arrange the photographing of PW for identification and record purposes, vide Reg 11(2). These photographs were forwarded to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau for inclusion with other basic records.

13. Provision was also made to prohibit PW from having in their possession any photographic apparatus, vide Camp Order No.13, para 15(a). Strict compliance with this order was demanded at all times.

14. The International Red Cross Delegate was authorised to take photographs in PW Camps under the same conditions as applicable to internment camps, vide Part I Chapter 2C. Approval was also given for representatives of the Department of Information to visit camps for the purpose of taking photographs for record purposes only and subject in each case to Command approval. Press reporters and other photographers were not allowed to enter camps as published stories and pictures could quite easily create wrong impressions and cause unfortunate repercussions.

15. Group photographs of German and Italian PW held in camps, labour detachments or Hostels, and photographs of general camp interest in German and Italian camps, could be taken subject to the conditions hereunder, but group photographs of PW allocated through Control Centres for employment in rural industry were NOT permitted:

(a) Groups were to comprise not less than 10 PW

(b) PW were permitted to purchase two copies of photographs in which they appeared and two copies of photographs of general camp interest, for despatch to relatives

(c) All such photographs were to be taken by Army Photographers who visited camps for the purpose of taking other photographs for historical and record purposes.

(d) Prints were supplied at a cost of 1/6d. each

(e) Items of general camp interest photographed were to include only sports teams, gardens, chapels and theatres

(f) PW being photographed were to be properly dressed (in their national uniforms if possible) except that sports teams could be photographed in their sporting attire

(g) No camp security fencing or other security arrangements were to appear in photographs.

16. As PW employed in rural industry had opportunity to have photographs of themselves taken at will, care was taken to ensure that permission was not granted under para 38(10) of Camp Order No.13 for the despatch by them of photographs showing them in the company of women in Australia.

POLITICAL SYMPATHIES

17. For guidance , it is recorded that one aspect requiring particularly careful handling is the situation which inevitably arises when the enemy is being defeated or is actually defeated. PW become confused as to their future, their loyalties and responsibilities. They have to be guided into abandonment of intense nationalistic feeling and into acceptance of the new condition of their own country. Plans should be made well ahead to cope with this type of situation.

CHAPTER 22

IMPORTANT EVENTS - PRISONERS OF WAR

1. It would be impracticable to include in this report a full record of all important events at PW Camps in the Commonwealth. It i in fact a difficult matter to distinguish between important and unimportant events as the slightest incident, if not handled properly or reported correctly, was likely to be used by the enemy as a lever for enforcing restrictions and hardships on Allied PW in its camps. The utmost care had to be exercised to ensure that all incidents were quickly and fully investigated and that reports were made available to the Directorate without delay in order that queries or complaints by representatives of protecting Powers, or others, could be answered with full and correct information.

2. Some of the main events of definite importance are reported below. These were :-

1. The Cowra outbreak in August 1944.
2. Shooting of German PW at Murchison in Sept 42
3. Tunnelling operations of PW.

THE COWRA INCIDENT

Description of Camps:

3. In order that the reader may follow the story of this incident, the following description is given of the group of Camps at Cowra. A plan of the group is also appended for reference vide page *185*.

4. The Group was situated about 227 miles west of Sydney, N.S.W. It was erected in 1941 as a Prisoner of War Camp, comprising 4 separat camps, A, B, C & D, each camp being of about 17 acres in area, within a twelve sided perimeter enclosing an almost circular area and a Group Headquarters. A thoroughfare about 50 yards wide and 750 yards long, known as Broadway, divided Camps B & C on the eastern side from Camps A & D on the western side. Each end of Broadway was guarded by double gates. Bisecting Broadway and at right angles was a strip about ten yards wide, on each side of which was the security fencing of each camp. This strip was known as "No mans land."

5. Outside and adjacent to the northern gates were sleeping and other quarters for the garrison responsible for the guarding and administration of A & B Camps respectively. This was known as "Northern Area" and was situated on slightly elevated ground. Outside and adjacent to the southern gates were C & D company lines, known as "Southern Area." This area consisted of sleeping quarters and administration huts for the garrison guarding C & D Camps.

6. The northern and southern gates of Broadway were the only means of ingress and egress to the perimeter. The entrances to the 4 Camps were situated at the centre of Broadway and each comprised double gates, an outer and inner gate. The gates were secured by padlocks.

Towers and sentry boxes:

7. "A" and "B" towers and two sentry boxes guarded the northern gates to Broadway; "C" and "D" towers and two sentry boxes guarded the southern gates. "F" tower was located on the eastern side and "E" tower on the western side of the camp, both towers being situated at the end of the dividing lane known as "No mans land."

Fences:

8. The security fences consisted of three barbed wire fences sited about 30 feet apart, each 6 feet high, and on posts set 9 feet apart, carrying 6 or 7 barbed wires on each side of the posts.

The spaces between the outer and inner barbed wire fences were filled to a height of approx 5 feet with tangled barbed wire. Three coils of danert concertina wire were affixed on the inside of the middle fence with a further coil overhanging at the top.

Camp Hospital:

9. At the time of the outbreak the 15 A.C.H. containing 146 beds was located in the N.E. corner of Camp A and in the N.W. corner of Camp B. Provision was made for additional accommodation if required by the use of tents. The hospital area in each camp was separated from the remainder of the camp by a barbed wire fence on the souther boundaries. Double gates from each hospital area opened into Broadway.

Group Headquarters and Garrison:

10. Group HQ were located ~~and~~ on high ground on the western side of the four camps and overlooking the whole area. The Group was controlled by HQ NSW L of C Area and was under the command of Lt-Col M.A. Brown (Group Commandant). Each camp within the Group was under the command of a Camp Commandant. The officers who held these appointments were :-

Camp	A	Major L.J. Meagher
"	B	" R.Ramsay
"	C	" E.V.Timms
"	D	" L.E. Lees

The 22 Aust Garr Bn was responsible for guarding the prisoners of war, the O/C being the Group Commandant and the Company Commanders the respective Camp Commandants.

Types of Prisoners held:

11. The prisoners of war held at Cowra at the time of the outbreak were :-

Camp A	Italian Prisoners of War	O.R.
" B	Japanese Prisoners of war	O.R.
" C	Italian Prisoners of war	O.R.
" D	Japanese Prisoners of War of Korean and Formosan race and Japanese Prisoners of War - Officers.	

The number held in Camp B was 1104.

Sequence of Events:

12. On the 3rd June 1944 a report was submitted to the Group Commandant giving details of information received from a Korean prisoner of war describing a conversation he had over-heard amongst prisoners of war to the effect that a mass escape had been planned and that the Japanese prisoners of war intended to attack the garriso and seize their arms and ammunition.

13. In consequence of this, added precautions were taken in order to ensure the defeat of any such object. Extra fire power was provid and utilized in such a way as to bring fire down on what was considere the vulnerable parts of the camp perimeter. An arrangement was also made with the Aust Recruit Training Centre, Cowra, situated about 2 miles away in a direct line from the Group, covering details of warnir and action to be taken in the event of an outbreak by prisoners of war An alarm signal (three red flares) was agreed upon, which when seen by the Aust Recruit Trg Centre picquets, posted at vantage points, would be acknowledged by (3) green flares. Arrangements were made for the local protection and security of the Training Centre and the recapture of any escaped prisoners of war.

14. On the 4 Aug 1944 the Camp Commandant Camp "B" summoned the Camp Leader S/Maj KANAZAWA, and the Assistant Camp Leader, Sgt/Pilot MINAMI of Camp "B" and informed them that all prisoners of war whose names appeared on a nominal roll supplied to them, comprising Japanese prisoners below the rank of L/Cpl would be transferred to Hay Prisoners of War Camp N.S.W. on Monday 7 Aug 1944. This news was received with the remark by MINAMI "Very bad business, why can't we all go?"

15. Nothing unusual was noticed during the remainder of the day or on the usual check parade at 1630 hours, but at about 0130 hours the following morning in clear moonlight a small group of Japanese were seen loitering in the grounds of Camp "B" , some 20 yards from the perimeter fencing.

16. A sentry of a quarter guard who was on duty in the centre of Broadway saw a Japanese prisoner of war leave the huts and move down towards the compound gates leading into Broadway. This was at 0130 hours. He walked forwards and back again then finally came on towards the gate. He had a blanket over his head and was weeping and appeared to be in great fear. He seemed anxious to convey a message and spoke excitedly in Japanese, which the sentry could not understar The NCO in charge of the quarter guard advised the guard room of the incident by telephone from a sentry box situated at the compound gate and arranged for an escort to come to the gateway and remove the prisoner. Just before the escorts arrived and before the prisoner could be withdrawn from his position between the gates and escorted to the guard room, the Japanese opened their hut doors and yelling and screaming fanatically rushed towards the perimeter wire.

17. The attack was preceded by a bugle call which evidently was a pre-arranged signal. In groups of approx 200 to 300 each they rushed for the wire in four places, two on the outer perimeter and two on the wire leading into Broadway. They carried as weapons base-ball bats, staves, improvised clubs, and dining and kitchen knives which had been sharpened and some of which had also been serrated or pointed. Extra clothing was worn and the PW had towels wrapped aroun themselves. For protection against the wire they carried blankets which they threw over the fences and entanglements, and as a protecti for the hands, some wore baseball gloves, or especially prepared gloves made from the uppers of boots, while others wore pads of toilet paper. Before leaving the huts, the prisoners fired some of them by overturning the heating braziers and throwing on the flames the contents of straw palliasses and any other material. A con-flagration was quickly produced which resulted in the complete destruction of (18) sleeping huts and (2) administrative buildings.

18. As the wire was reached, the Japanese, with screams of "BANZAI," threw blankets on the wire and either climbed over or crawled under-neath. Others with blankets and greatcoats wrapped around themselves lay on the wire whilst PW passed over the top of them.

19. In the centre of Broadway the officers and two escorts, who had first arrived as the attack was developing, now increased the number of AMF personnel at that point to one officer and (5) ORs. The office ordered the party to withdraw and the NCO in charge of the quarter guard informed his company by telephone that the Japanese were breasting the wire and coming through into Broadway and that the guards were moving down to the south gate. As the party retreated they were closely followed by prisoners of war who had taken two or three minutes to get over the wire. The foremost of these was shot by one of the guards before going through the gate, which was then closed and secured.

20. The general alarm was given at approx 0150 hours. The Aust Recruit Training Centre was warned by the firing of flares as agreed upon and almost immediately afterwards by telephone.

21. During the subsequent action the camp lighting failed when some overhead wires were severed by rifle or machine gun fire and emergency lights were switched on. The glare from the burning huts illuminated the area although huts in the southern compound threw shadows in that quarter.

22. Meanwhile two large bodies of Japanese each about 200/300 who had rushed the outer perimeter had breached the fences in two places. Outside of these fences were sited No.1 and No.2 Machine Gun positions. No.1 Machine Gun was sited in a position just below and adjacent to B Tower and had the task of firing along the outer perimeter fence between "B" tower and No.2 sentry box; No.2 Machine Gun was mounted on a trailer and sited about 50 yards in front of "B" Coy huts to fire on a fixed line along the fence in a South East direction towards "F" tower. It was the duty of the machine gunners detailed to man their guns in the event of an alarm. Fire was opened by the guards at about 0150 hours. As the attack had developed in four separate places the troops at each point took separate and immediate action.

23. Both No.1 and No.2 Machine Gun had been manned on the alarm being sounded. Japanese were noticed by riflemen who were firing from a position near "B" Coy huts, moving underneath the trailer of No.2 Machine Gun and rifle fire was brought to bear on them. The Japanese however clubbed and killed one machine gunner on this gun and stabbed the other with a knife. The latter staggered up towards the Company lines where he collapsed. This machine gunner died shortly afterwards. No.2 Machine Gun, which had been perhaps the earliest to open fire, was reached afterwards by an AMF party and being undamaged was prepared for action again. At this gun was found three full boxes and a partly used belt of ammunition. The gun had fired about 90 rounds before being rushed and put out of action. Whilst the second party were recovering the gun, they were attacked by two Japanese, one of whom was observed coming around the side of the trailer as the party approached it and another by a soldier who had climbed onto the trailer and was then bringing the gun into action. Both Japs were shot by rifle fire. No.1 Machine gun was supported by a Lewis Gun manned by a guard NCO. The NCO on hearing the alarm saw Japanese breaching the wire. He ran to the guard room, obtained the Lewis Gun and brought it into action near the eastern end of "B" Coy sleeping huts.

24. By this time the Japs had reached No.2 Machine Gun position. The NCO opened fire on those of them who were swarming around, on top of and underneath the trailer. A large number of prisoners had escaped through this breach and another breach which had been made in the outer perimeter in the proximity of "F" tower.

25. To deal with any attempt by those Japs who had escaped, to infiltrate into the garrison lines from the north, an armed party under the command of an officer was detached for this task. They located prisoners crawling through the grass and on receiving no reply to an order to halt, opened fire. One AMF guard received stab wounds in the neck and shoulder in an encounter with Japanese in this area and in the morning a dozen wounded Japs and some dead were collected here. Several of the dead Japanese were still clutching knives in their hands.

26. Those who escaped through the southern break in the outer perimeter fence, moved south east and attacked C & D Company lines. They were driven off by rifle fire from AMF personnel who had been posted to meet such a threat. The sentry in "F" tower, located near the southern breach, was armed with an Owen gun, rifle and hand grenades. All of the rifle and Owen gun ammunition issued was used by this sentry but the range was too great and the throwing space in the tower too limited for the use of grenades.

27. Of the prisoners who escaped into Broadway one party turned north to storm the northern gates but was held by rifle and automatic fire from guards who had taken up a position near the gate and from the watch towers. Another party turned south and rushed the southern gates. This party was also held by rifle and automatic fire from guards posted near those gates and the towers. Simultaneously other

prisoners forced open the gates leading from Broadway into D1 Compound in which were quartered Jap prisoners of war of Korean and Formosan races, but did not advance into that compound, nor did the Koreans or Formosans participate in the outbreak. The outer and inner gates leading into D3 Compound in which were quartered Jap Officer prisoners of war were then forced. About (50)fifty escapees entered the Jap Officers compound and remained in the huts until daybreak, when they were marched out.

28. An order had been given to fire on anyone moving in the Japanese Officers compound but to avoid hitting the buildings. A number of Japanese ORs were shot at the gates and inside of this compound and in addition one Japanese officer was killed and one wounded.

29. The Italian, Korean and Formosan prisoners of war in the group remained indoors; they did not participate in any way and suffered no casualties. Of the eleven hundred and four Japanese who occupied Camp B on 4th August 1944, 378 escaped through the wire of the outer perimeter, 588 managed to get through into Broadway but not beyond the northern and southern gates. The remainder, numbering 138, were found in the Camp and either did not attempt to escape or were unsuccessful in their attempt.

30. At 0830 hours on 5th August 1944 the collection of Japanese wounded was commenced. It was not possible to commence a general collection of wounded before this time owing to the prevailing situation. The unwounded Japanese were concentrated in the northern end of Broadway, and wounded were collected about the centre from where they were carried in motor lorries to the Camp Hospital and admitted.

31. Arrangements were made for the early admission to hospital and for subsequent operations on wounded personnel. When operations commenced in the theatre, two surgical teams working with two operating tables were employed. A constant stream of casualties were brought from 'B' Hospital to 'A' hospital and operated upon, after their risk had been ascertained and they had been placed in the most satisfactory order for operation. The number of Japanese admitted on the first two days after the incident, 5th and 6th August, were 119 and 7 respectively.

32. A working party of Japanese was employed under AMF supervision to collect the bodies of Japanese prisoners who had been killed. They were collected from Broadway, the wire entanglements about the camp, the compound and the area outside of the camp and were laid out in an area outside of the perimeter of B Compound. A large number of dead Japanese were found lying with knives still clutched in their hands. Others who had killed themselves were found with knives stuck into their chests, with their throats cut or with stab wounds in the heart or bowels.

33. A number of unwounded Japanese, approximately 100, who had taken shelter in the drains on both sides of Broadway, came out and surrendered quietly when the AMF party entered the camp. Others beforehand had congregated or were walking about in Broadway and these submitted quietly after having previously thrown their weapons away. MINAMI, a former Japanese camp leader, was among the dead who were found in Broadway during the morning. His body was lying in the drain about 18 yards from the entrance into the Japanese officers' compound. His throat had been cut.

34. At about 0700 hours on 5th August 1944 a party carried out an inspection of Camp "B" and found bodies of dead Japanese in the huts and among the ashes of burnt hut . The bodies of 8 Japanese were found hanging, three from rafters in the recreation hut (one of whom was suspended by a rope and the other two by pieces of hay **hands**), two others at entrances to a sleeping hut and one from the centre rafters in the camp kitchen. The latter was that of KOJIMA the assistant camp leader. The incinerated remains of twelve Japanese were found among the ashes of other huts which had been destroyed by fire. These remains were unrecognisable, but a later check against the camp nominal rolls and the assistance of Japanese prisoners of war established the

identity of them.

35. The bodies were viewed by the Coroner and a Government Medical officer. An inventory of wounds and injuries was made, the bodies being stripped where necessary. Each body was given a serial number and a label was attached to the body. The remains were identified with official records which showed photographs and a complete description including physical peculiarities, scars, wounds, etc. Other Japanese were used for the purpose of recognition.

36. Patrols of AMF personnel armed with bayonets and commanded by officers who were unarmed searched the surrounding countryside for escapees. One officer member of a search patrol was surprised by about 8 or 12 Japanese on a hill about 7 miles north of Cowra on 5th August at about 1700 hours. He was attacked and killed by members of this party who shortly afterwards hanged themselves on nearby trees. The officer's body was found several hours later by another patrol. He had suffered severe head injuries.

37. In the vicinity were found 8 dead Japanese, two of whom had apparently hanged themselves and were then lying on the ground underneath the trees while the other six were hanging from adjacent branches.

38. As a result of the killing of the AMF patrol officer, all patrols thereafter operated only during the hours of daylight and were provided with firearms. In addition to recovery patrols, protective bodies of troops were stationed at night at various homesteads. The protective troops were armed similarly to recovery patrols, but during their period of protective duty were not attacked.

39. During the night 4/5 Aug 44, a runner who was a member of a patrol placed on a hill west of the Prisoner of War Camp and in the vicinity of the water tanks, reported that a number of prisoners of war were making their way in a southerly direction on the western side of the hill. A party of 8 AMF contacted the Japanese prisoners which appeared to number about 40, among rocks on the western side of the hill. The AMF personnel here were reinforced and surrounded the area. The Japanese did not attempt to break through the cordon, being content to remain where they were and smoke cigarettes. When daylight came, an interpreter was used who called out to them to surrender. They came out of their places of cover with their hands up and were then marched back to B Camp. This party numbered 73, two of whom were wounded.

40. A search of the hospital grounds was then made and disclosed some four or five Japanese hiding under buildings in the enclosure. In the wards two escapees had taken refuge under the blankets of unoccupied beds. They were evicted and escorted back into their own compound.

41. The Australian Recruit Training Centre provided an armed party of 4 officers and 145 ORs to reinforce the Prisoners of War Camp Garrison at 0220 hours on the morning of 5 Aug and also provided personnel for the patrols used for the purpose of recapturing escaped Japanese and for protective duties.

42. On 6 Aug 44 at 0430 hours a patrol party consisting of 1 officer and 15 ORs were patrolling a road north of the camp when 6 Japanese rushed down a hill towards them with baseball bats, axe handles and sticks, and one was seen to be in the possession of an AMF bayonet. When shots were fired at their feet they dived for cover. They were then ordered to come out with their hands up, which they did and when about 15 yards off were noticed to have their elbows close to their bodies. When it was seen that they still had possession of their weapons, they were again halted and ordered to drop them. They did so reluctantly, and did not offer further opposition or resort to further ruses.

43. At about 0945 hours on 6 Aug 44, two Japanese committed suicide by throwing themselves under a train in the vicinity of Cowra. The train was bound from Blayney to Cowra when the burgundy clad figures were seen by the train crew to throw themselves underneath it before

the driver realised their intention. Army personnel who were travelling as passengers on the train arranged for the return of the remains to Cowra Prisoner of War Camp by MT. A search was made of the vicinity of these two suicides but no further Japanese were located. The prisoners were not in possession of any weapons at the time of their death and the only articles revealed as the result of a search of their clothing was a box of matches.

44. During the ensuring 9 days, 334 Japanese escapees were re-captured of whom 25 were dead. From evidence received at a subsequent enquiry it was quite likely that a number who were found dead were killed by their compatriots.

Casualties :

45. Casualties sustained by AMF personnel as a result of this outbreak were -

One officer - killed

Three other ranks - killed

Four other ranks - wounded.

The bodies of those killed were interred in the Australian War Cemetery at Cowra N.S.W.

Of the four AMF personnel killed :-

One officer died from head injuries inflicted by a blunt instrument.

One soldier died as the result of a stab wound through the back and chest penetrating the lungs and heart.

One soldier died as the result of a stab wound in the left side of the chest penetrating the heart.

One soldier died of a compound fracture of the skull and lacerations of the brain caused by a blunt instrument.

Three other ranks were wounded by rifle fire from weapons probably sited at the opposite end of Broadway. One OR suffered a stab wound at the base of the neck.

46. The total casualties sustained by the Japanese as at 0900 hours on 14th August 1944 were:-

1	officer	- killed
233 ~~900~~	ORs	- killed or died of wounds
1	officer	- wounded
107	ORs	- wounded

Of the wounded ORs, sixteen showed evidence of having attempted suicide. The bodies of the Japanese dead were buried in the Japanese section of the War Cemetery at Cowra N.S.W.

Extent of Damage :

47. The total value of damage done to Government property as a result of this attempted escape was £19,900, which included 20 huts completely destroyed, damage to the perimeter fencing, and destruction of blankets, palliasses, boots, knives, forks, spoons, clothing and kitchen equipment.

Court of Inquiry :

48. A Court of Inquiry was convened to inquire into and report on the circumstances surrounding this incident and all matters and facts related to or in any way connected with it, and the conduct of any person or persons in relation thereto.

49. The Court assembled at Cowra on Monday 7 Aug 44 and first visited the scene of the incident to inspect the camp and its surroundings. Evidence was called for from Garrison personnel including Compan officers, guards, sentries and personnel in watchtowers, from the Commander of the Australian Recruit Training Centre and from patrol officers and other ranks employed in the apprehension of escapees, from medical officers and staffs of the War Graves Service and Engineer Service, and from Japanese PW who expressed a desire to appear before the Court.

50. The main findings of the court may be briefly summarised as follows :-

(a) The use of arms was necessary and was stopped at the earliest possible moment having regard to the circumstances

(b) The discipline and general conduct of guards was highly satisfactory and there was no evidence of any wrongful acts or omissions towards the PW or of the illegitimate use of force during the recapture of escapees by AMF patrol

(c) The mass escape and attack was carried out according to a premeditated and concerted plan but there had been no opportunity to convey details to the Japanese officers in Compound D.

(d) The objective was to overthrow the security of the group and to sell their own lives in suicidal combat.

(e) The arrangements for medical attention and treatment of casualties were satisfactory.

(f) All possible care was taken in the identification of bodies and the dead were buried with all due respect and reverence in the War Cemetery at Cowra.

(g) Treatment of PW had been humane and generous with full regard for PW Conventions and no complaints concerning treatment had been made immediately prior to the mutiny.

Coronial Inquiry:

51. A coronial inquiry was also held in connection with the incider and its findings were in conformity with the findings of the Court o Inquiry. A copy of the Coroner's findings were forwarded to the representative of the Protecting Power through the Department of External Affairs but copies of the various depositions were not supplied.

Directorate Action:

52. The Directorate took immediate action on receipt of news of the incident to instruct the Command concerned to proceed along lines which would not give grounds for possible complaints from interested parties and an officer of the Directorate with special knowledge of Japanese psychology was flown to Cowra by special plane to assist in the interrogation of Japanese and to advise the Camp Staffs on proper action.

53. This prompt action and the supply of appropriate information through the Department of External Affairs to the Protecting Power Representative resulted in the early clearing up of a situation which could easily have proved disastrous for Allied PW held by the Japanes It would not be appropriate to describe at length the negotiations between the Dept of Army and External Affairs concerning the Cowra incident, but it should be emphasised that the earliest possible contact should be made by Army with External Affairs if an "incident' occurs and subsequent action including advice to Protecting Power representatives should be taken only after close, and if possible, personal contact between departmental representatives.

Japanese Reaction:

54. Japanese PW who were not killed in the outbreak or killed themselves during the riot were at first completely ashamed and many

expressed the desire to be executed. They gradually settled down, however, and gave no further major difficulties.

55. The incident was officially ignored by the Japanese Government No mention of the matter was made by Japanese Radio stations nor was any attempt made to use, for propaganda purposes, announcements of a heavy death-roll. It was felt that this could only be because the authorities felt that any admission that a large number of their PW were in Australian hands would undermine the attitude of the people. Propagandists in Japanese occupied territories had also little to say about the incident. It was reported once from Shanghai and Batavia "demanded explanations" after carefully stating that the personnel involved could not possibly have been military PW, since Japanese never surrender, and must therefore have been internees. As far as is known, this too was broadcast only once as apparently even this ingenious approach was considered unconvincing and too dangerous for repetition.

Photographs:

56. Photographs of some aspects of the incident are reproduced on pages 186 and 187.

SHOOTING OF GERMAN PW AT MURCHISON

57. This incident occurred at the Murchison PW Group in Victoria on 21 Sep 42.

Sequence of Events:

58. The German Camp Leader stated that two matters had disturbed the PW and gave rise to the incident. These were :-

(a) Cancellation of a football match between German and Italian PW representing different camps at Murchison, and

(b) An order to the PW for the withdrawal of blankets and certain outer clothing for the purpose of being dyed a distinctive colour

NOTE: The blankets were some which had been issued to the PW in the Middle East. They had been permitted to retain these in addition to the five blankets issued in Australia and their temporary removal would not have resulted in any hardship. PW had come to regard the blankets as their own property and had been cutting them up to make civilian clothing for escape purposes. The intention was to re-issue them after dyeing. Clothing to be withdrawn was of a civilian pattern only and could be used for escapes. It was to be dyed and returned to the PW or stored if they preferred.

59. For two days before 21 Sep 43 the PW, numbering about 800, were in a frame of mind in which they were likely to create a demonstrati The German Camp Leader was warned that any trouble would be met with disciplinary action.

60. On the morning of 21 Sep the PW failed to parade for the early morning count and the Camp Commandant ordered a parade and roll call for 0900 hours. The Camp Leader then indicated that he would endeavo to have the PW on parade but could not guarantee it. To ensure that his orders were complied with, the Camp Commandant decided to send int the Compound a strong guard with two lorries to collect the blankets and clothing held by the PW.

61. The guard of 2 officers and 40 other ranks were warned by the Camp Commandant that should the PW rush the cordon they were to be stopped. If they refused to heed a verbal warning, shots were to be fired over their heads as a further warning and if this was unheeded the guard was to fire low to stop them. While the guard were assembl it was observed that the PW were forming up on their parade ground. The guard then marched in and began to take up their allotted positio

62. A large number of PW then broke their ranks and ran shouting towards their tents, where guards were deploying. The purpose of the break was clearly to prevent the guard from performing its duty and to resist the seizure of blankets and clothing.

63. Certain of the guards called upon the PW to halt. Warning shots then fired into the air were disregarded and the guards were then forced to fire at the PW to halt their advance. Some PW fell to the ground wounded and the remainder went to ground. Those who had not moved from their position on parade went to ground there.

64. Firing continued for a very short space of time (10 to 15 seconds) and ceased after the PW went to ground. The Camp Commandant gave the cease fire order when he saw the position was under control, and attention was then given to the wounded.

Casualties:

65. Of the nine PW wounded, one died from Haemo Pneumo Thorax and medistal shock resulting from the bullet wound. The remainder, including one who was only slightly grazed, recovered after treatment.

Coronial Inquiry:

66. The Coroner found the death of the PW to be due to the causes stated and that the shooting was lawful and justifiable in the circumstances. A copy of this finding was forwarded to the Protecting Power representative and a statement of the facts was sent to the Department of External Affairs for transmission to the representative.

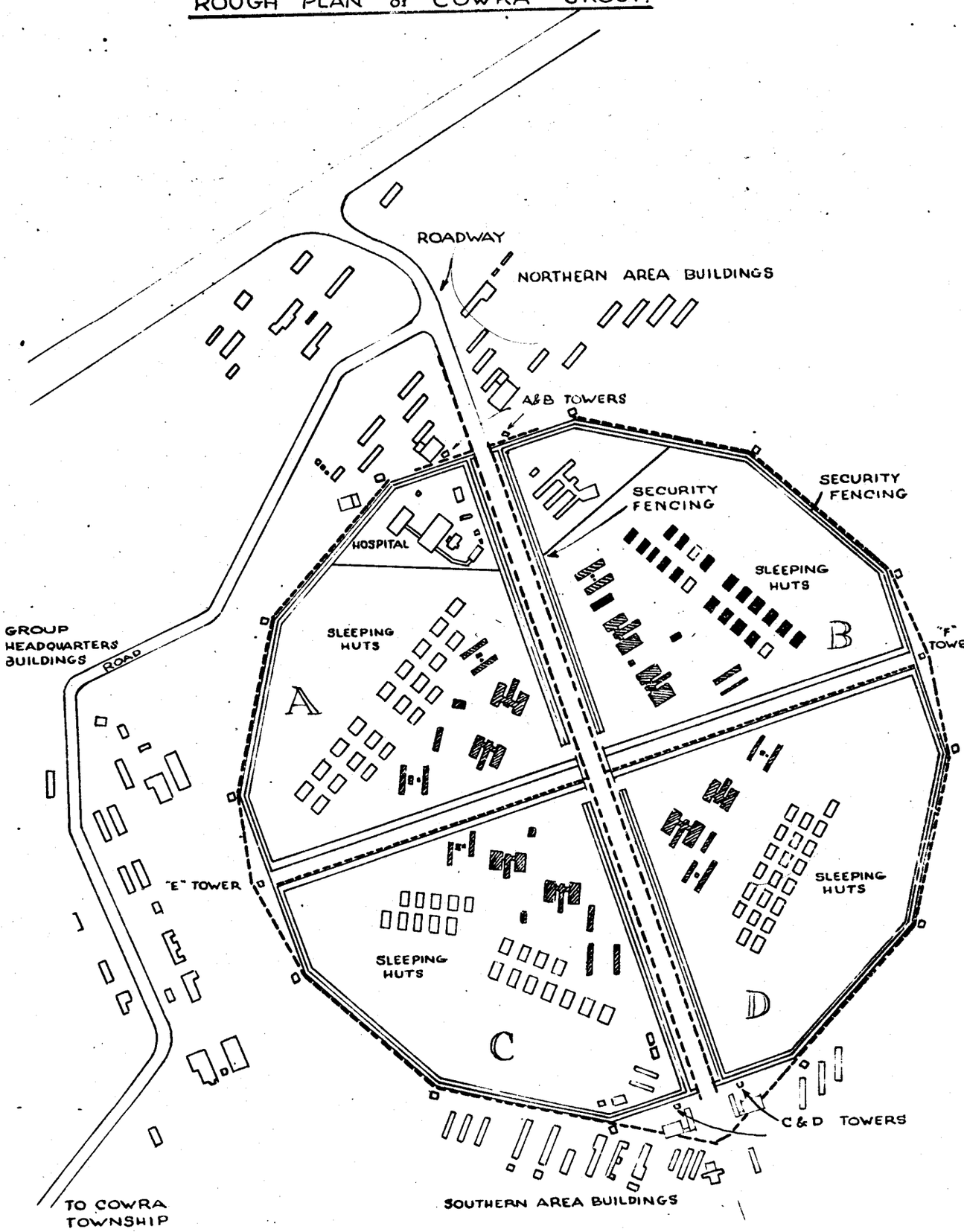
Directorate Action:

67. While this incident was of less importance than the Cowra ~~mutiny~~, all necessary action was taken to ensure that the information supplied was correct and thus possible retaliation by German soldiers on Allied PW was avoided.

TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

68. Details of some tunnelling activities in Australia will be found in Part III Chapter 4 of this report, dealing with Security and Escapes. Other attempts were made to escape by medium of tunnels but in most cases these were found before completion and escapes thus prevented.

ROUGH PLAN of COWRA GROUP.

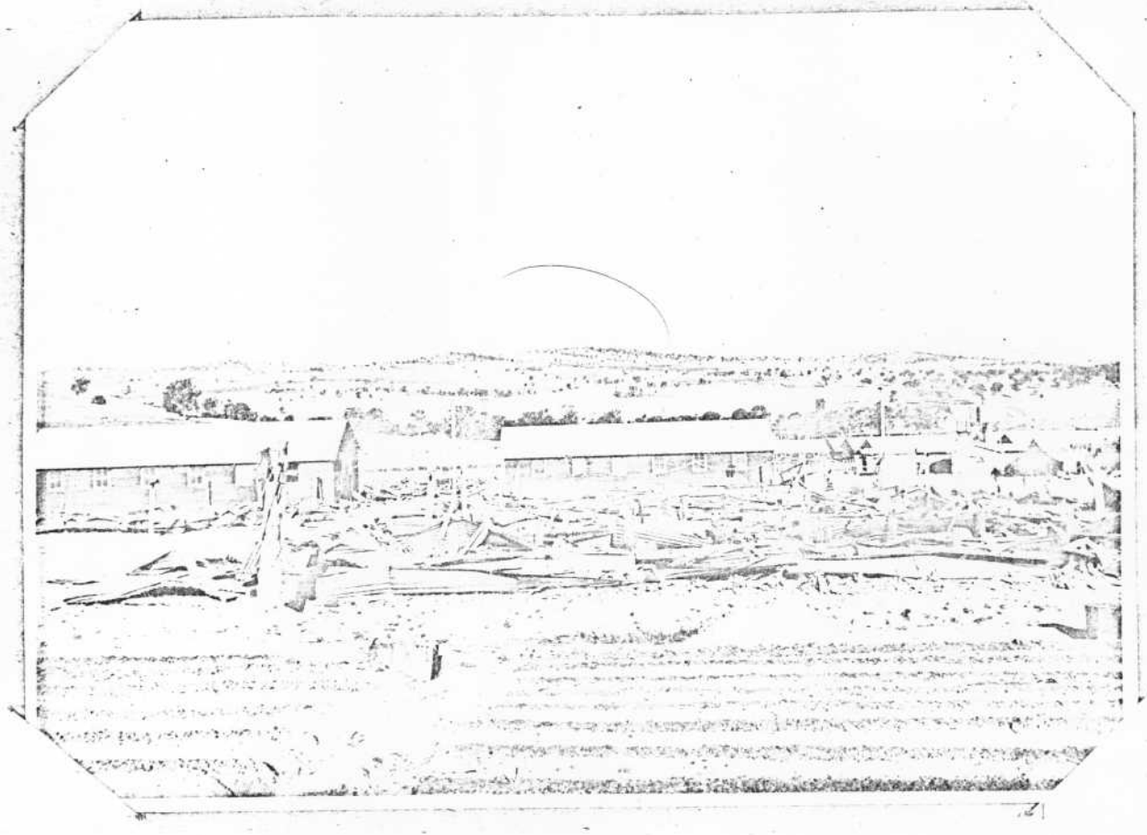


NOTES

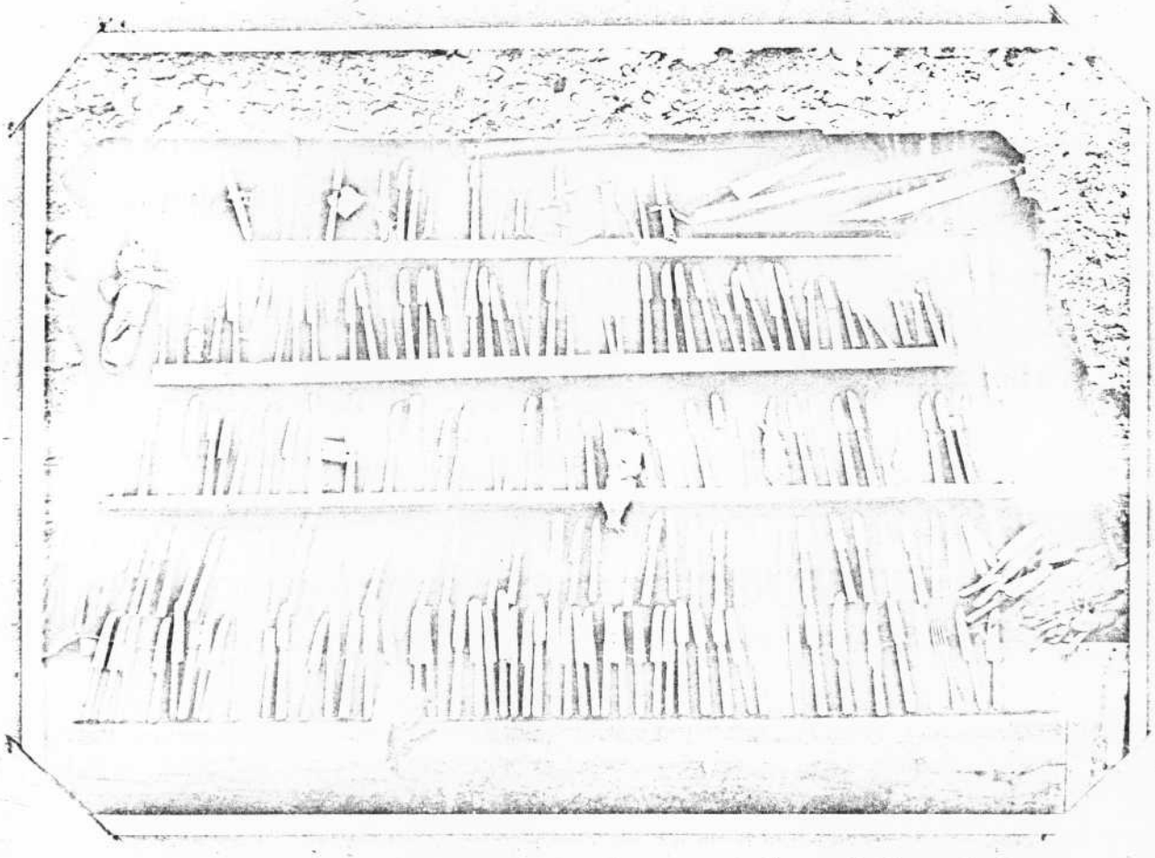
1 "HATCHED" BUILDINGS IN COMPOUNDS ARE INTERNAL MESS HUTS, ABLUTIONS ETC.

2 BLACK HUTS ARE THOSE BURNT DURING INCIDENT.

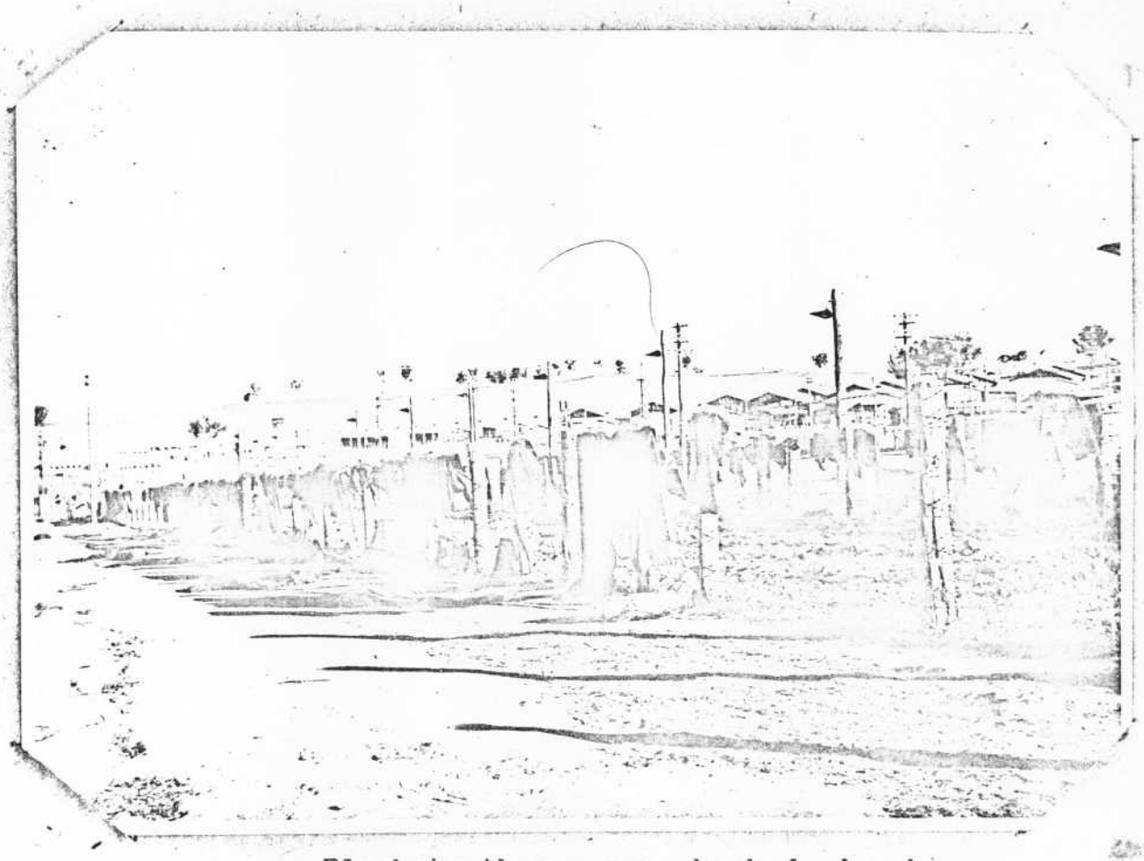
3 NOT TO SCALE.



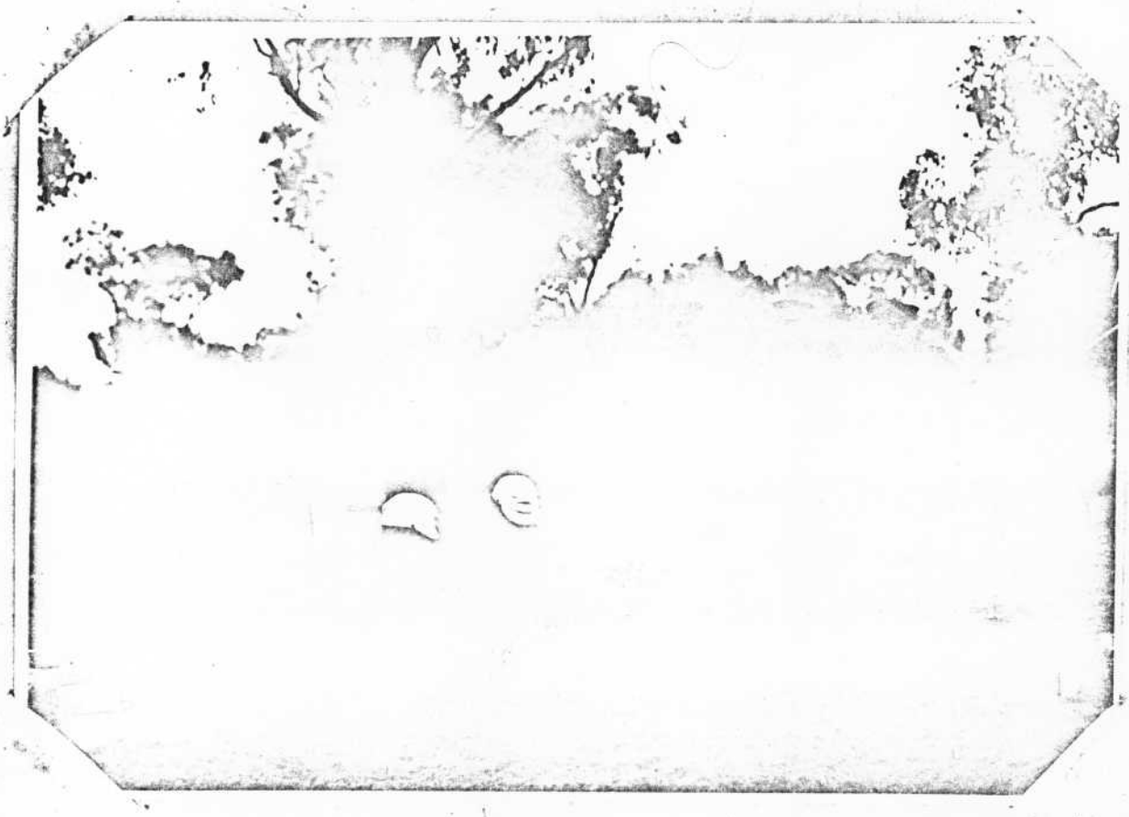
Burnt out huts in Camp 12B.



Knives recovered in and around Camp 12B and from Japanese PW after the incident



Blankets thrown over barbed wire by Japanese PW to facilitate secape.



Burial of Japanese PW who lost their lives whilst participating in the COWRA incident.

CHAPTER 23

DISPOSAL OF PRISONERS OF WAR

1. PW held by the Commonwealth were disposed of by means of exchanges, repatriations and releases, or by transfer under special arrangements to other countries. In this Chapter each nationality will be dealt with separately in order to avoid confusion. The reader will appreciate that negotiations and arrangements for movements in respect of the various nationalities were often concurrent and to some extent co-related.

2. Details of negotiations regarding exchanges between belligerents are included in this Chapter although to some extent they affect Australian PW and could therefore be included in Part IV of the report. Numbers of Australian PW returned to Australia as a result of these arrangements will be mentioned in Part IV.

SECTION A - ITALIAN PW.

FIRST REPATRIATION

3. In April 1942 negotiations instituted by the United Kingdom Authorities through the medium of the protecting Power made possible the repatriation of some sick and wounded Imperial PW from Italy and of Italian PW from the Middle East. The exchange of these PW was effected at Smyrna. These arrangements provided for the repatriation of PW recommended by Mixed Medical Commissions for repatriation, and protected personnel. There was no question of equality of numbers as repatriation was obligatory under the existing Conventions and the number of Italians returned to Italy from the Middle East exceeded the number of Imperial PW repatriated as the British Empire held far more PW than Italy. Care was taken in the United Kingdom to prepare an appropriate press and radio statement for release if news of the exchange broke before its completion and a further explanatory statement for guidance of the BBC and the Press.

FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS

4. An enquiry was made at the instigation of the Directorate, in June 1942, as to whether any negotiations were proceeding or were contemplated for the further repatriation from Italy of medical cases and protected personnel and the United Kingdom advised in reply that further negotiations had not so far been successful but developments were expected in the near future. Further cables received indicated that Italy had withheld from the repatriation already effected large numbers of Imperial protected personnel, and that action was being taken to request that in future exchanges the number of protected personnel to be retained should not exceed two doctors, ten medical orderlies, two chaplains, two dental officers and two dental orderlies, per 1000 PW held. To secure uniformity, the Commonwealth agreed to these figures and advice was then received that it was proposed to concentrate in the Middle East, pending repatriation, all protected personnel held.

5. Action was taken to select appropriate numbers of protected personnel to be retained in Australia, taking into account where qualifications were equal, age, marital status and length of captivity, and it was ascertained that the following were available for transfer :-

PROTECTED PERSONNEL

92 Officers and 455 Other Ranks, total 547

MIXED MEDICAL CASES

38 Officers and 37 Other Ranks, total 75

622

NOTE: The figures quoted are PW later embarked - figures first supplied to the United Kingdom were slightly lower.

REPATRIATION ARRANGEMENTS.

6. In January 1943 a definite scheme was submitted to Italy providing for the mutual repatriation of PW in these classes and the United Kingdom proposed assembly of personnel in the Middle East by April 1943. Special requirements concerning documents to accompany the PW and disposal of impounded currencies and effects were included in the advice received and these were later incorporated in instructions issued for the preparation of PW concerned for transfer overseas as a preliminary to repatriation, vide Appendix 19. This instruction is included as an appendix to the report for information and numbers quoted therein should not be taken as final as they were subject to fluctuations for various reasons before the party was finally embarked.

7. A voyage guard of 7 Officers (CC Major) and 51 Other Ranks was raised at the request of the Directorate, for duty on the vessel.

8. Embarkation was effected on the "Oranje" in March 1943 after concentration of PW concerned at Cowra, New South Wales and arrangements worked smoothly. The following special points concerning this embarkation are however of some interest:-

(a) Funds were provided from Ship's Imprest Account to enable PW to make canteen purchases on board.

(b) The NSW Division of the Australian Red Cross Society provided Red Cross stores for use on the voyage.

(c) Arrangements were made for the free issue of cigarettes and/or tobacco to Italian PW Other ranks on the same scale as provided at camps..

(d) One Chaplain (RC) was included with the escort to administer to the PW.

(e) In conformity with Empire practice, the International Red Cross Delegate in Australia was not informed officially of the proposed movement as it formed part of a concentration of PW and not an actual repatriation.

(f) The Apostolic Delegate was permitted to inspect the PW after embarkation.

9. GHQ (Middle East) was informed of embarkation and of the documents accompanying CC Troops for delivery to Commandant, Suez, including Mixed Medical Commission Case Sheets in duplicate for the PW recommended for repatriation, and medical documents.

10. Nominal rolls of the PW embarked were supplied to the representative of the protecting Power in Australia.

11. In the voyage report received it was noted with some satisfaction that Middle East Authorities were stated to have said, "The records from Australia left nothing to be desired and if the records received from other Holding Countries had been of a similar standard the work in the Middle East would have been reduced to a minimum."

12. Disembarkation of the PW was effected at Suez on 16 Apr 43 and they were handed over to a British Escort with all documents and property, etc. for which receipts were obtained.

LATER NEGOTIATIONS.

13. In May 1943 the United Kingdom advised that following on the collapse of North Africa fresh proposals had been made by Italy for the immediate repatriation of sick and wounded from North Africa in return for all British and American sick and severely wounded PW. Barcelona was suggested as the exchange port. The Italian proposal was considered less important than a similar one received from Germany, as no opportunity had arisen for PW to be recovered from Germany, and action was therefore taken as indicated in Section B of this Chapter concerning that proposal, and the Italian scheme was temporarily deferred.

14. So far as Australia was concerned, the next move in regard to Italian PW was the receipt of advice in September 1944 concerning a request by Italy for the repatriation of all Italian PW (including Merchant Seamen) in the following categories:-

(a) over 60 years.

(b) over 50 years and under 60 who had been in captivity for two years or more

(c) others on compassionate grounds irrespective of age.

15. The United Kingdom authorities agreed to this proposal, subject to the availability of shipping, and the Imperial Prisoners of War Committee recommended that the policy be accepted in all Empire holding countries. On examination in the Directorate it became apparent that definite advice as to the determination of eligible PW under category (c) would be necessary as any invitation to Italian PW to submit claims would undoubtedly result in hundreds of applications and would generally produce an unsettling effect on the Australian employment schemes. It was therefore suggested that under this category, the only PW who should be included were those (168) who had been recommended for repatriation by Mixed Medical Commissions in Australia, which had then ceased to examine Italian PW under Empire policy. The United Kingdom, in reply to inquiries on this aspect, advised that they were applying to Italian applications on compassionate grounds the same standard as to United Kingdom Service personnel overseas desiring return on compassionate grounds. The PW were examined by Medical Boards and those marked as unfit for service (Class "E" in the United Kingdom) were [redacted] for repatriation.

16. It was then agreed that in Australia category (c) PW should include :-

(a) PW not included in categories (a) or (b) who had been recommended for repatriation by Mixed Medical Commissions.

(b) PW recommended by Camp Commandants as eligible for repatriation on special compassionate grounds, subject to approval of Army Headquarters.

(c) PW whose medical condition was found to be the equivalent of the AMF medical classification "D" (unfit).

17. Nominal rolls of PW for inclusion under classes (b) and (c) above were obtained from Commands concerned and arrangements made for the medical examination of those in Class (c). Preliminary estimates indicated that a total of about 600 PW would be eligible under all categories for repatriation and this fugure was advised to the United Kingdom together with a request for advice as to whether repatriation could be effected via the United Kingdom as shipping to the Middle East was not available.

18. Later cables implied that only PW who had been former residents in Allied Occupied Italy should be included in the proposed movement and in answer to enquiries on this aspect, lists of PW were reviewed to include only those in this specific category. At the same time approval was sought to include all the PW previously listed, in view of (a) possible change in the war situation before embarkation was effected, and (b) the undesirability for economic reasons of retaining them in Australia. This proposal was finally concurred in and with additional recommendations the total number of PW estimated as available for transfer was approximately 800. This figure included also a new class of PW, namely those whose repatriation had been requested specially by the Italian Government and whose repatriation was not considered undesirable on security grounds. In respect of each of these PW, advice had been sought by the Directorate from the General Staff (Intelligence) concerning security objections to repatriation and active Fascists had been excluded with the approval of the United Kingdom authorities. Only 10 PW were at this stage approved in this class for inclusion in the proposed transfer.

EMBARKATION ON "ANDES" - AUGUST 1945.

19. Embarkation of this party was effected on the vessel "ANDES" early in August 1945, the actual numbers embarked being 134 officers and 584 other ranks, a total of 718. These were classified roughly as follows :-

Over 60 years	8
Over 50 and under 60	103
Mixed Medical cases	150
Medically unfit	389
Compassionate cases	58
For Italian Government	10
TOTAL -	718

20. In accordance with advice received from the United Kingdom just prior to embarkation, these PW were not permitted access to their credit balances after closure of accounts and no issues of cash or canteen supplies were made to them during the voyage. Opportunity was given to them to purchase necessary canteen supplies at their camps before closure of the accounts, and arrangements were made to make cigarettes and tobacco available for issue to other rank PW on the vessel.

21. A voyage guard of 4 officers and 46 Other ranks was provided and a Medical Officer was posted as MO during the voyage.

22. As in the previous shipment, documents were sent with OC Troops for delivery to Comd. Receiving Camp in the Middle East. No special matters of interest concerning the voyage are considered worthy of note.

SPECIAL TRANSFER ON PAROLE.

23. While arrangements were being made for the above transfer, a request was received from Allied Forces Headquarters in the Mediterranean Theatre for the transfer to Italy of two Italian PW Officers who were required by the Italian authorities for duties with the Italian Naval Mission.

24. After enquiries it was found that there was no security objection to the transfer of these PW for the purpose mentioned and preliminary steps were then taken to arrange their early movement. No troopship was however available at this time (February 1945) for their movement and it was decided to ship them as passengers, under parole, to report to the Italian Naval authority at the port of disembarkation in Italy for onward routing to the Ministry of Marine at Rome.

25. Embarkation took place on 25th April 1945 after forms of parole had been signed by the two officers concerned, copies of which were handed to the ship's Captain. A small amount of money was drawn from their accounts for their use on the voyage and their impounded effects were returned to them to be carried as baggage. A copy of the parole given by each PW was sent, with advice of shipment, to Allied Forces Headquarters, Mediterran Theatre, together with medical documents, impounded currency and statements of accounts, etc.

PW REMAINING IN AUSTRALIA

26. After these shipments, the only urgent cases requiring repatriation were approximately 155 Italian PW, the majority of whom were for medical reasons deleted from drafts for transfer. Medical officers had expressed the opinion that these PW should be transferred on a hospital ship as they included surgical stretcher cases, medical stretcher cases, mental PW held in mental institutions, infectious cases requiring isolation and others requiring medical attention and/or nursing during the voyage.

27. It was anticipated in August 1945 that the early movement of these PW could be effected on a suitable vessel, but unfortunately the vessel could not be used for this purpose and the transfer had to be postponed indefinitely.

DISPOSAL OF ALL ITALIAN PW

28. In November 1945 the United Kingdom authorities were informed that a programme had been drawn up for the general repatriation of Italian PW remaining in Australia and that it was desired that it should be followed so far as it could be brought into line with policy determined for the repatriation of Italian PW in British hands, and subject to the availability of shipping. This programme provided for the early movement of some 6000 PW including a number who were eligible for repatriation under the scheme referred to in paragraph 15, and for subsequent movements covering the period up to May 1946, by which date, if the programme were adhered to, all Italian PW would be transferred from Australia. Administrative action was taken at this stage, with the approval of the Manpower Directorate, to disengage PW from

employment by stages to enable their repatriation, and the United Kingdom authorities were asked to arrange necessary shipping, if practicable, as it was not desired to hold PW in idleness over a long period.

29. Delays were inevitible, however, as shipping available was being used for other important tasks, and no movements could be effected until July 1946. In the meantime action was being taken to hasten the movement of Italian PW selected by the Italian Government through Allied Authorities in Italy and for this reason approval had been sought to make use of vessels proceeding to the Middle East from which point onmovement to Italy could be arranged later.

30. The vessel "MORETON BAY" was made available in July 1946 for the transfer of some 500 PW direct to Italy, including 173 PW required by the Italian Government and some aged PW and compassionate cases.

31. Action was then taken to issue a general administrative instruction, in anticipation of general repatriation, on the method to be used in selecting PW for embarkation, and concerning action to be taken in all shipments in relation to personal effects, canteen supplies, documents and records, etc. The following important aspects of this instruction should be noted:-

(a) Selection of PW.

Army Headquarters were to supply lists of any priority cases to be included in drafts. These PW were to be taken from rolls of special compassionate cases, and lists of PW required by the Italian Government, etc. Where selections were left to Commands, consideration was to be given to:-

(i) PW who had co-operated with camp authorities
(ii) Age and length of captivity
(iii) PW recommended for repatriation on medical grounds who did NOT require medical treatment on the voyage
(iv) Compassionate cases
(v) Protected personnel excepting those required for essential duties at camps.

Notes: Recalcitrants and criminals were to be repatriated last. Where appropriate shipping accommodation was available PW recommended on medical grounds were to be given absolute preference.

(b) Administration of drafts.

PW drafts were to be so organised as to compose self-contained units capable of carrying out all necessary administrative, medical, hygiene and provisioning functions within themselves. PW themselves were to be organised by senior PW officers in drafts who were to be directly responsible to O/C's Escorts for the efficient organisation of PW on board. For this purpose each draft of PW was to include a number of officers as determined by Army Headquarters.

32. At this stage approx 16,300 Italian PW were held in the Commonwealth. These were disposed of as follows:-

Date	Vessel	Officers	OR's	Total
Sep 46	Chitral	51	2,747	2,798
Oct 46	Katoomba	14	581	595
Nov 46	Strathmore	32	1,468	1,500
Dec 46	Rangitata	14	386	400
Dec 46	Moreton Bay	41	732	773
Dec 46	Empire Clyde *	2	224	226
Dec 46	Ormonde	52	2,179	2,231
Dec 46	Alcantara	77	3,244	3,321
Jan 47	Otranto	21	3,687	3,708
Jan 47	Orontes	19	760	779
		323	16,008	16,331

* This vessel was used for the purpose of transferrring the majority of medical cases referred to in para 26.

ESCAPEES

33. After the general repatriation shipments, an intensive search was conducted to recapture Italian PW who had escaped in Australia, vide Part 3, Chapter 4, and by November, 1947, 57 other ranks were available for repatriation. These PW were embarked on the "General Heintzelman", carrying German PW and internees, which was diverted to Naples to disembark the Italians.

34. After the departure of the "General Heintzelman", the only Italian prisoners of war remaining in Australia were 53 escapees who had failed to respond to an invitation issued through the press and radio stations to surrender and be repatriated and thus retain their rights for consideration if they later desired to return to this country. By 31st August 1953, 49 of these had either surrendered or been apprehended, whilst two had, by some means or another, returned to their country of origin. Of the 39, 36 were repatriated, unescorted, on Italian vessels returning to Italy after bringing migrants to Australia, the prisoners of war being handed over to the custody of the masters of the vessels. 2 seamans and 13 Italians were conditionally retained in Australia. (See Pt II Ch 23, Sec E)

VOYAGE INSTRUCTIONS

35. In respect of each shipment of PW, arrangements were made with the Directorate of Organisation for the issue of orders to the officer in charge of the escort. While these varied slightly, particularly in relation to earlier shipments, it is thought desirable to attach to the report a set of instructions which may be regarded as a standard for issue in respect of general repatriations, vide Appendix 20.

RELEASES IN AUSTRALIA

36. With the approval of the United Kingdom Authorities, Italian PW Merchant Seamen were permitted to make application for release in Australia. Their applications were placed before the Inquiries conducted by Mr Justice Hutchins and Mr Justice Simpson (referred to in Part 1, Chapter 23), and as a result approximately 50 Italian PW were eventually released in Australia.

SECTION B - GERMAN PW

EARLY NEGOTIATIONS

37. Preliminary negotiations for the exchange of German PW were commenced in November 1941, when the German Government put forward through the United Kingdom Government, proposals for the exchange of PW who were severely wounded or sick or who were entitled to repatriation under the Convention. This proposal also included certain suggestions concerning the inclusion of civilian internees.

38. His Majesty's Government stressed in reply that the question of the repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously ill members of the armed forces and protected personnel should be treated as entirely distinct from the repatriation of civilian internees. The German Government was informed that there was every intention to give effect to the provisions of Article 68 of the PW Convention, and further, that any such exchanges should be made on the basis of categories of persons irrespective of the numbers involved on either side.

39. The proposal broke down with mutual recriminations between the United Kingdom and German Governments after an unfortunate spate of publicity based on an idea of exchanging PW whereas the Conventions called for the repatriation of certain classes of persons under clearly defined conditions and without regard to numbers involved.

40. The Directorate took action in June 1942 to ascertain whether any further negotiations were proceeding or were contemplated and from replies received it was learned that further negotiations had not been successful and Germany was proving most difficult. However, a further approach was at that time being made by the United Kingdom, and in an effort to reach agreement it was proposed that equal numbers be exchanged and that to make up numbers of PW to be sent consideration should be given to the inclusion of German civilian women and children and males under 18 or over 60 provided they desired repatriation and there was no security objection. Figures concerning these civilians and PW eligible for repatriation were then supplied by the Directorate to assist the negotiations but it was not until March 1943 that any headway was made.

41. At this stage His Majesty's Minister at Berne reported that the Swiss Government had received from the German Government a proposal for the repatriation of British and German sick and wounded PW. This proposal was substantially a similar one to that submitted to Germany in 1942, the main requirements stated being:-

(a) Numerical equality. (Germany held more sick and wounded and protected personnel but stated their intention that provided numbers corresponded they would exchange a British disabled PW for any kind of German, whether combatant, non-combatant or civilian).

(b) Inclusion of civilians excepting any involved in penal action or undergoing punishment, any whose repatriation was objected to on security grounds, and any who did not wish to be repatriated.

(c) Merchant seamen to be treated as <u>civilians</u> unless they were in active military service when captured.

42. The proposal was given careful consideration and was accepted subject to the fact that it was not agreed to include Merchant Seamen, other than those passed by Mixed Medical Commissions, or to regard them as civilians. In recommending rejection of the proposal regarding these PW, the Naval Authorities

had emphasized the serious shortage of ships' officers and skilled seamen of all kinds in the Axis Mercantile Marine and stated many methods by which Germany was attempting to overcome the shortage.

43. It was however proposed by the United Kingdom that the immediate exchange should cover about 1400 German sick and wounded and protected personnel as against a similar number of the worst cases among British sick and wounded. The Commonwealth concurred in this proposal. It is interesting to note that considerable care was taken in the United Kingdom to prevent the breakdown of negotiations by references to the exchange in the press before finality was reached. The following note was issued to all press editors there:-

> "Negotiations for the repatriation of wounded British and German PW, and certain other PW in British and German hands have now after a long interval been resumed through the Protecting Power.
>
> The Press will recall the previous occasion when such a repatriation operation was under negotiation. Although arrangements were more advanced than they are on the present occasion, the whole project broke down . There is no doubt that the factor which contributed to the breakdown was the advance public interest displayed and reflected in the British Press, for this encouraged the Germans to raise their price at the last moment.
>
> In the circumstances, it is urgently requested in the interests of PW and relatives that no reference whatever, whether emanating from home or foreign sources, is made to the subject until an authorised announcement is released."

COLLAPSE OF NORTH AFRICA

44. In May 1943, following upon the collapse of North Africa, fresh proposals were made by Germany for the immediate repatriation of German sick and wounded from North Africa. This presented an opportunity to recover Allied sick and wounded from Germany and would also relieve the North African Command of a heavy burden in respect of hospital accommodation and medical services, etc. It was therefore suggested to Germany that Allied PW should be examined forthwith by German doctors who should certify for repatriation those covered by Schedules A and B of the Model Draft Agreement annexed to the Convention, and that all surplus protected personnel should be repatriated.

45. Despite repeated reminders, no definite reply was received from Germany by the end of June 1943 and the United Kingdom authorities then suggested an exchange of Australian, New Zealand, Indian and South African Mixed Medical Commission cases and surplus protected personnel with German PW in similar categories from Australia, India, South Africa and the Middle East.

EARLY SHIPMENT

46. At the request of the United Kingdom, and to enable their concentration in the Middle East as a preliminary to repatriation, German PW in Australia passed by the Mixed Medical Commission, and surplus protected personnel were then prepared for shipment and were finally embarked in July 1943. Numbers involved were:-

Mixed Medical Cases

Officers	6	
Other ranks	20	26

Protected Personnel

Officers	4	
Other ranks	2	6
	Total	32

Note: With these PW were shipped a small number of internees recommended for repatriation by the Mixed Medical Commission, vide ~~paragraph 23~~ PART 2E, Chapter 23., para. 31.

47. In this movement, action in regard to documents, property and accounts of PW was similar to that adopted in respect of the shipment of Italian PW referred to in paragraph 6. An escort of New Zealand Service personnel and a Liaison Officer from the Directorate proceeded with the party. ~~to~~ (the query of the latter was) advise the Officer-in-charge in connection with the PW and internees when so requested, or when he considered it desirable to submit advice. His task was, in effect to see that Convention requirements were met during the voyage, and he did not assume any administrative functions.

LATER NEGOTIATIONS

48. In September 1943, the German Government, in reply to the general proposals previously put to it, agreed in general terms to the mutual repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick PW, and surplus protected personnel. An assurance was requested by that Government that all seriously wounded and seriously sick PW in North Africa would be included in the exchange without exception, whether they were in British or American custody. It was further suggested that the actual exchange should take place immediately at GOTHENBERG and SMYRNA, and that eligible PW in North Africa should be moved from there on hospital ships of the Axis Powers.

49. Details of actual exchanges effected with Germany are given in Part IV of this Report. As these were effected in the Middle East and German PW sent from Australia were included as necessary by the United Kingdom authorities, it is not considered desirable to include further details here, but to proceed with facts concerning further negotiations and the various movements from Australia.

50. In October 1943 the International Red Cross Committee suggested that in accordance with Article 72 of the Convention, agreements should be reached for the transfer to neutral countries of aged PW and those held in captivity for a long period. While figures concerning these PW were being compiled, shipping again became available to permit the transfer of German PW recommended for repatriation by the Mixed Medical Commission in Australia.

FURTHER MOVEMENTS

51. A further transfer of 6 other rank German PW was effected in January 1944. These were Mixed Medical cases, and transfer to North West Africa was in response to a request by the United Kingdom Authorities for their transfer ~~to~~ to that locality.

52. This movement was followed by the following transfers to the United ~~Kingdom~~ STATES or Canada of Mixed Medical cases as a preliminary to their repatriation:-

	Officers	Other Ranks	Total
April 1944	2	3	5
August 1944	2	15	17
December 1944	1	5	6

53. In each case the British Army Staff at Washington was informed of transfer and of the various documents and personal effects, etc. under control of the O.C. Troops for handing over on arrival of the draft.

GENERAL REPATRIATION

54. A long period of inactivity in relation to the repatriation of German PW then ensued. This was due to lack of shipping and, later, to the refusal of Allied Occupation Forces in Germany to accept the PW. No opportunity was lost, during this period, to bring the question of repatriation before the United Kingdom Authorities. It was not until November 1946 that advice was received of the allocation of shipping for the general movement of PW and arrangements were then made for the inclusion of remaining Germans in the last shipment in January 1947.

55. The bulk of the German PW were shipped on the vessel "ORONTES" in January 1947, numbering 110 officers and 1312 Other ranks, a total of 1422. German PW then remaining in Australia were a small number of escapees and one PW who was permitted, with the approval of the War Office, to make arrangements through the Consul-General for Honduras, for transfer to that country.

57. At the 30th September, 1950, all German prisoner of war escapees had been apprehended and repatriated, except two who had marri in Australia and desired to remain in the country. These were released parole pending a decisoin by the Government as to whether they would be permitted to remain in Australia.

RELEASES IN AUSTRALIA :

58. As in the case of Italian PW(vide para 36) German Merchant Seamen were considered for release in Australia and about 150 were eventually released in the Commonwealth.

SECTION C - JAPANESE PW AND SURRENDERED PERSONNEL

EARLY NEGOTIATIONS :

59. In 1943 proposals were placed before the Japanese Government for the general repatriation of seriously sick and seriously wounded PW and when no reply was received a request was made that action should be taken to conform with the established practice among belligerents of examining PW with a view to recommending repatriation in eligible cases.

60. The attitude of the Japanese Government towards their own nationals who were captured as PW was such that there could be no prospect of agreement on this question and it was not until after the conclusion of hostilies that any concrete advice was received on repatriation. The Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers then communicated with all Commands as under :-

> "United States Chiefs of Staff consider that maximum utilisation of all merchant shipping recovered from control of Japanese must be made for the repatriation of Japanese Nationals and for the maintenance of minimum Japanese economy, and that supervision and control of allocation and operation of such merchant shipping is the responsibility of this office".

61. In November 1945 the United States Chief Provost Marshal (Col Purdy) visited Army Headquarters at Melbourne and held conference with the Director of Prisoners of War. At this conference, the policy to be adopted regarding the repatriation of Japanese PW and Internees was discussed, and the Australian Army Authorities were requested to conform to the United States policy whereby all types (i.e. men, women, children, PW, internees, etc.) were repatriated together without distinction. The supreme Commander later asked for advice as to numbers of Formosans and Koreans and requested that they be withheld temporarily from shipments.

62. A review of the situation was placed before the Commander-in-Chief with a recommendation inter-alia, that General MacArthur be asked to give first priority to the repatriation of Japanese PW and Internees held in Australia on the tentative assumption that all would be returned to Japan or Formosa. This followed a request by General MacArthur for details of numbers of Japanese in AMF Areas to be repatriated, details of priority of movement and desired ports of embarkation. Priority for Japanese PW and Internees on the mainland was considered desirable to release the large number of AMF required to guard camps. At this stage the following numbers of PW and Disarmed Personnel were held :-

PW

On mainland	3838	
In New Guinea and other Islands	1372	5,210

Disarmed Personnel

In areas north of Australia (Approx)	323,000

63. General McArthur then advised that about 14,000 passenger spaces were being made available for the repatriation of Japanese and it was requested that ships available be routed to lift approximately 6000 (including internees) from the mainland, and that the remaining space be used to evacuate 8,000 disarmed personnel from the Wewak area.

MOVEMENTS :

64. On 26 Nov 45, 1129 Japanese disarmed personnel were evacuated from MUSCHU Island, near Wewak, but because of certain refuelling difficulties and the necessity for repairs, the departure from Japan of the remainder of the ships was considerably delayed. Further representations were made in January 1946 for the allocation of additional shipping, as by that time it had become apparent that the vessels promised to be allocated, even if working on a shuttle service from Japan, would not clear all PW and disarmed personnel by December 1946.

65. Some areas north of Australia were progressively evacuated by Australian troops under general policy and these were taken over by Forces under the South East Asia Command. By this means about 175,000 disarmed personnel were taken over and the number for repatriation under Australian control reduced accordingly.

66. In February 1946 advice was received that the "KOEI MARU" and the "DAIKAI MARU" would load Japanese PW and internees from Australia immediately and instructions were issued for the embarkation of remaining Japanese internees (about 2170) and approximately 3250 PW. In determining PW to be repatriated on these vessels provision was made for sufficient protected personnel to be retained to carry out essential duties, and for the exclusion of suspected war criminals and war crimes witnesses, Formosans and Koreans, and Thailanders and Malayans.

67. Action had been taken prior to this date to issue standard instructions concerning the repatriation of Japanese, making special provision, in accordance with advices received from General MacArthur's Headquarters, for PW to take with them a limit of 500 yen in the case of officers and 200 yen in the case of other ranks, but prohibiting jewellery, gold, silver or other precious metals and other currencies. Unfortunately, the two ships mentioned arrived on such short notice that it was found impracticable to provide yen and the only money which the PW were permitted to take was yen currency, yen certificates and Japanese Government yen Bonds already held, up to the limit mentioned. It was arranged that after shipment a nominal roll would be sent to General MacArthur's Headquarters showing the credit balance of each PW at the time of repatriation. This roll was to be transmitted to the Japanese Authorities who were to be required to pay PW in full, the amounts so paid to be taken into account in connection with any post-war financial adjustment between belligerents.

68. Embarkations of PW on the "KOEI MARU" and "DAIKAI MARU" in February 1946 were :-

"KOEI MARU"	
Ex Murchison, Victoria	400
"DAIKAI MARU"	
Ex Hay, Cowra and Liverpool, New South Wales	2684
Total	3,084

69. Advice was then received that the Formosans and Koreans remaining in Australia should be concentrated at Sydney where they were to be embarked on the Japanese Destroyer "YOIZUKI".566 PW were embarked on this vessel together with 439 mixed internees and after their departure a strong and widespread campaign by the Press alleged overcrowding and bad conditions on board. This matter was the subject of a special enquiry and is dealt with fully in Part III Chapter 8.

70. After the departure of the above vessels, the only remaining Japanese PW on the mainland were :-

13 Merchant Seamen
129 Suspected War Criminals and witnesses
2 Thailanders
1 Malayan

145

71. These PW were disposed of as under :-

Merchant Seamen - 6 released in Australia after appearance before Boards of Inquiry. Balance repatriated various vessels to 1/1/47.

Suspected War Criminals - 1 died. Balance 128 transferred to Rabaul June 1946. With exception of 2 ~~of small number~~, these PW were cleared of suspicion in connection with war crimes.

Thailanders - Sent to Singapore on "MARELLA" in July 1946 under arrangements with Australian Political Representative there, for on movement to Siam.

Malayan - Sent Macassar on "KANIMBLA" August 1946 for on movement to Singapore.

OTHER DISPOSALS :

72. It should be noted that a number of Japanese PW lost their lives in the Cowra ~~mutiny~~ break, vide Part II Chapter 22. ~~In addition~~ there were also 72 deaths from natural causes. ~~A number of Chinese PW captured with the Japanese Forces were also handed over to the American Forces for employment in Australia and the rest. These numbered~~ In addition about 130 Chinese PW captured with the Japanese forces were handed over to the Chinese Consul for employment with U.S. Army Forces.

DISPOSAL OF JAPANESE OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA :

73. It is not proposed to detail repatriation movements of Japanese PW and Disarmed Personnel held in areas outside the mainland. About 1500 PW were held at Lae after the cessation of hostilities with Japan, about 250 at Morotai and 13 at Balikpapan. In addition there were about 140,000 disarmed personnel remaining in the various islands under Australian control. PW at Morotai and Balikpapan were handed over to Netherlands East Indies Authorities and other PW and disarmed personnel were repatriated by various vessels provided by General MacArthur's Headquarters.

SECTION D - GENERAL

74. In arranging all transfers of PW the Directorate had to exercise extreme care to comply in every detail with Empire policy requirements. Special instructions were received from time to time concerning financial and other aspects of movements, but the general basis upon which administrative instructions were issued was a memorandum issued by the Imperial Prisoners of War Committee on the co-ordination of transfers of PW from one holding country to another, vide Appendix 17.

75. Careful planning was necessary at all times to make the most economic use of Camp accommodation, and for this reason, particularly during the period of general repatriation, constant reviews were made of all nationalities of PW, and of Internees, to enable decisions to be made concerning transfers and readjustments. It was necessary too, to plan systematically the clearing of Command areas in proper sequence and to arrange immediate transfers of special categories to facilitate the closing of all camps in areas covered. The general plan adopted was to clear Western Australia, then South Australia, Victoria and lastly New South Wales. It was found necessary however, to leave some Japanese PW at Murchison, Victoria, pending their transfer to Rabaul or release in Australia, and finally, Detention Barracks at Attwoods, Victoria and Holsworthy, New South Wales were used to accommodate recaptured escapees.

76. The action taken, after general repatriations were completed, to apprehend and dispose of escapees is dealt with in PART Chapter 4. It is necessary to add that suggestions ~~have~~ were ~~been~~ made to the United Kingdom Authorities that recovered PW (and internees) should be disposed of as soon as possible after recapture and that for this reason any available means of transport, including air, should be utilised. As diversion of shipping to disembark small numbers involved in Germany and Italy would also be in most cases impracticable it ~~has~~ was ~~been~~ suggested that the PW be sent to the United Kingdom as a preliminary to repatriation. ~~A~~ reply has been received, recently stating that air transport ~~at the time of the writing of this report~~ is not considered desirable; ~~and arrangements are at present in hand for the embarkation of a small number of recaptured PW and Internees, in anticipation of approval of the proposed scheme.~~

Section 'E'

RELEASE IN AUSTRALIA OF ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR OTHER THAN MERCHANT SEAMEN

1. After the last repatriation vessel conveying prisoners of war had sailed in November 1947, there were 2 German and 53 Italian escapee prisoners of war still at large in Australia.

2. By the 31st August 1953, only 2 Italian escapees remained at large, the remainder having either surrendered or been recaptured. These latter, with the exception of 2 Germans and 13 Italians, were repatriated. (see Chapter 23, Section A, para 34.)

3. In accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention that all prisoners of war should be returned to their country of origin, the Directorate began the necessary action to repatriate the remaining prisoners of war being held in custody.

4. Each of these prisoners of war had been at large for several years and, during their period of freedom, had found employment in which, from police reports, they appeared to have given satisfactory service to their employers who all testified to their industry and to their good conduct whilst in their employ. The two Germans had married, one to an Australian girl and the other to a German ex-internee unconditionally released in Australia.

5. Petitions were submitted on behalf of these Germans by their wives' relations and also by the prisoners themselves for consideration to be given to granting them permission to remain in Australia. Applications were also received on behalf of four of the Italians seeking their release as they too desired to remain in Australia and their employers during the period they were at large were most anxious to retain their services in view of the serious shortage of manpower. The fifth Italian had been admitted to a Mental Institution shortly after being taken into custody.

6. Pending a decision by Cabinet as to whether these and other prisoners of war in Australia would be repatriated or permitted to remain permanently in Australia, the Minister gave his approval for the two Germans and three of the Italians to be released on parole under the following conditions:-

(a) that the conduct of the prisoner of war was satisfactory while he was at large; and

(b) that, supported by a surety who was a permanent resident of Australia, the prisoner of war entered into a recognisance in the sum of £100 to abide by the terms of his parole; and

(c) that the terms of his parole should be that he should reside at a specified address during his period of leave, that he should report weekly to a specified authority and that he should not change his residence without the approval of that authority.

7. In each case the conditions were fulfilled and the prisoners of war were granted leave on parole.

8. The question as to whether Australia was to continue to adhere to the rigid policy of repatriating all prisoners of war and therefore insist on the repatriation of all prisoners of war remaining in the country was made the subject of a Cabinet agendum.

9.. On 25th October 1950, Cabinet agreed that prisoners of war still in Australia on parole should be permitted to remain pending the conclusion of migration negotiations with the Government of enemy countries, especially Germany and Italy. If, as a result of the negotiations, immigration quotas were arranged, the escapees who were of good character and were otherwise acceptable to Australi would be included as part of the quota provided that the Government of the country concerned concurred in the arrangement, thus avoiding any charges of breach of the Geneva Convention concerning prisoners of war.

10. Cabinet decision was immediately implemented and the six priosners of war advised of their release until further notice from liability to be detained as prisoners of war, subject to the following conditions:-

(a) that each report immediately to the Commonwealth Migration officer in the State of residence; and

(b) that each abide by the instructions appearing in the Aliens Registration Certificate to be issued to them by the Commonwealth Migration officer of the State of residence, or otherwise given by the Department of Immigration.

11. Upon issue of Aliens Registration Certificate to each prisoner of war, action was taken to cancel the recognisance entered into by each prisoner of war and his surety, and responsibility passed the Department of Immigration.

CHAPTER 24

SURRENDERED PERSONNEL

1. Immediately after the cessation of hostilities with Japan, in August 1945, a large number of disarmed personnel were taken over by the AMF in the various Islands of the Pacific and Commands concerned sought instructions on their handling and disposal. Liaison with the General Staff (Operations and Intelligence), Second Echelon, Ordnance, Organisation and others concerned led to the issue of a signal giving preliminary policy under which these personnel were to be held in the areas concerned until further instructions were issued.

2. It was requested that subject to field conditions the broad general principles of the PW Convention should be observed, but that no pay should be provided unless and until permanent camps were set up by direction of Army Headquarters. Preliminary records were to be made, dangerous articles withdrawn and PW were to be required to wear a diamond patch of any dark or contrasting colour (size 9") on the back of their shirts or outer garments. It was particularly required that strict discipline be established quickly and maintained at the highest standard.

3. Commands concerned were then asked to furnish weekly advices by signal on the estimated number of disarmed personnel in each area, the numbers under AMF control, numbers anticipated to surrender and numbers unaccounted for.

STATUS

4. From messages passing between General MacArthur and Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten it then became apparent that the surrendered Japanese should be considered as disarmed personnel and not necessarily as PW, and that while awaiting repatriation they could be used for such purpose and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by National Commanders authorised to receive their surrender. Further enquiries showed that the general policy of the Chiefs of Staff of Britain and the United States was to treat these personnel as disarmed personnel and not as PW, therefore they were not entitled to the benefits of the PW Convention and their administration and maintenance was the responsibility of the Japanese Army under supervision of Allied Forces.

TREATMENT

5. In view of certain press reports and the great anxiety apparent in some quarters regarding the supposed undue consideration being shown to the surrendered Japanese, the Commander in Chief of the AMF had a comprehensive report on this matter prepared and in view of its value in giving a true picture in relation to each area and the methods employed in handling the Japanese, this report is being reproduced in full at the end of this Chapter. It should be noted that the figures quoted therein are those at 10th October 1945 and should not be treated as final.

6. Tentative ration scales were fixed for disarmed personnel but it should be appreciated that these scales were used in whole or in part only where Japanese rations were not available. Japanese food holdings were carefully controlled in the various areas and issues were made from Australian sources only when considered necessary. No scales of clothing were authorised. It was intended that the Japanese should as far as practicable, do with the clothing they had on issue or in stock. In special circumstances, local Commanders might of course be called upon to issue some clothing to prevent disease, etc. Some Japanese clothing available at Rabaul was transferred to MUSCHU ISLAND to cater for Japanese from the Wewak area.

7. To reduce commitments for rations, the Japanese were employed on growing vegetables, etc. In Rabaul 15,000 acres were known to be under cultivation in October 1945, and orders had been issued to increase this to 20,000 acres. Crops included sweet potatoes, wild tapioca and rice. A Japanese agricultural expert was also moved to MUSCHU ISLAND with about 10 tons of implements and seed, in order to pick out suitable areas on the island and to commence crops as quickly as possible.

REPATRIATION

8. The repatriation of disarmed personnel was considered second in priority to the clearance of Japanese PW from the mainland of Australia, and their evacuation was therefore spread over a long period. Movements were effected in vessels provided by General MacArthur's Headquarters and the personnel could therefore be evacuated only as and when these ships were made available. It is not proposed to deal more fully with this subject as their general administration was the responsibility of Commanders in the Field. The Directorate maintained a close watch on the situation, issued directions where necessary and advised other Branches when thought fit.

NUMBERS

9. The following statement gives approximate figures of disarmed personnel and PW in AMF Areas outside the mainland:-

WEWAK	11,000	
TOROKINA	27,000	
RABAUL	102,000	
LAE	2,000	(including approx 1450 PW)
	142,000	

Note: In addition to these approximately 175,000 disarmed personnel were held in areas under AMF control but which were later transferred to British and Dutch control. These personnel were finally evacuated under arrangements made by the Forces concerned.

REPORT PREPARED IN OCTOBER 1945 CONCERNING TREATMENT OF JAPANESE IN AREAS OCCUPIED BY THE AMF.

1. The AMF sphere of responsibility for Japanese occupied territories consists of two parts - North West and North East sectors. The North West sector extends for 2,200 miles from KUCHING in the west to the border of DUTCH NEW GUINEA in the east and for 1,250 miles from the northern tip of BORNEO to the southernmost point of TIMOR. This vast area includes the great islands of BORNEO, the CELEBES and the HALMAHERAS and all NEW GUINEA west of longitude 141 deg. It contains islands like TIMOR, CERAM, BOEROE and the LESSER SUNDAS as well as a large number of groups such as the KAI, AROE, TANIMBAR, TALAUD and SANGIHE Islands.

Spread over all this area there are some 168,000 Japanese of whom all but 25,000 are Army and Navy troops. These are now being concentrated in certain specified localities. To control these large forces, to disarm them and to implement the terms of surrender, there are at most 71,000 Australian troops and of these many are now being returned to the mainland for long service release.

In the North East sector the position is almost equally difficult. The First Australian Army is responsible for the whole of British NEW GUINEA, the BISMARCKS, the SOLOMONS, NAURU and OCEAN Island - an area of more than a thousand miles from west to east and 1,500 from north to south. In this sector there are 143,000 Japanese (including some 89,000 in and around RABAUL alone) while the available Australian forces are some 82,000, though this total again is being continually reduced by long service and other releases.

2. It is obvious that our available resources are small in comparison with the tasks they are called upon to carry out and in addition the shipping available for the movement and supply of our own troops is limited. In these circumstances the policy adopted towards the enemy is to occupy vital areas with sufficient forces only to achieve the following purposes :-

(a) To obtain the immediate release of our PsW and internees and to provide them with complete medical care and service as soon as possible.

(b) To disarm the enemy completely and to concentrate them in areas convenient for our control.

(c) To arrest war criminals and keep them under guard until they can be brought to trial.

In addition, small surveillance parties are being sent out from the main control centres to ensure that the Japanese in outlying areas and islands are complying with our instructions and that any prisoners of war who may be isolated are located.

3. The carrying out of this policy is already under way. In the North West sector since 11 Sep our forces have visited KOTAWARINGI in BORNEO and MANADO in the CELEBES and have occupied KUCHING, SAMARINDA and BANDJERMASIN in BORNEO, MAKASSAR in the CELEBES, as well as AMBON and TIMOR further south. From each of these, surveillance parties are penetrating into the surrounding country. In addition, the Japanese troops on the HALMAHERAS have been brought under effective supervision by direct contact and inspection.

In the North East sector our forces have landed at RABAUL and have taken control of all the 89,000 Japanese in the GAZELLE Peninsula and a further 12,000 in NEW IRELAND. In the WEWAK zone the enemy are being concentrated on the little island of MUSCHU. Surveillance parties have been sent to BUIN and BUKA in BOUGAINVILLE and the Japanese at NUMA NUMA are being marched across the mountain trial to barbed wire cages at TOROKINA.

4. In every area the first care has been to secure the immediate release of our own and Allied PsW and internees and to give them all the medical assistance they need. The results of these effort are already apparent; including SINGAPORE and MANILA nearly 7,000 Australian PsW have been liberated. In addition more than 10,000 British and Allied prisoners have been recovered from Japanese hands by Australian troops and are now receiving medical attention or have been sent back to AUSTRALIA or to Australian and British bases. Furthermore, enormous stocks of Japanese arms and equipment of all kinds have been assembled in dumps, under our control and large quantities have already been thrown into the sea or otherwise disposed of. Already 16 notorious war criminals have been arrested including the infamous officers responsible for the horrors at SANDAKAN and AMBON and steps have been taken also to arrest the commandants and staffs of all Japanese PW camps. Arrangements will be made to send material witnesses who are returned PsW, back to give evidence in due course, when tribunals are assembled.

5. At the same time there has, of course, been no fraternisation with the enemy and orders have been issued for our troops to adopt a most formal and disciplined bearing at all times. In all the areas to which Australian forces have gone Japanese authorities have been treated with the utmost coldness and curt formality. The Japanese troops are required to furnish working parties and must at all times pay respect to Australians. At conferences, the Japanese officers must stand to attention and salute the Australian commander and his staff. A firm attitude towards the enemy is consistently maintained and any attempt at a friendly approach from them has been severely discouraged. Instead they are peremptorily required to comply with all our orders and instructions and the slightest sign of truculence or an insolent bearing is at once suppressed. In general the Japanese are being made to feel that they have been soundly defeated and that they must implicitly and instantly carry out whatever they are told to do.

6. This rigorous and uncompromising policy that has been adopted towards the enemy has already had a marked effect on the Japanese commanders and their subordinates. Up to date they have carried out all instructions that have been given to them in full and with alacrity and there has been no attempt at evasion or delay. There has in fact been only one instance in which any Japanese have tried to display an independent attitude. This was firmly and promptly dealt with and since then there has been no repetition of any such incident.

7. The strict policy of showing the Japanese no leniency and of meting out to them stern but just treatment was followed in TIMOR. Here a comparatively small Australian force of one battalion and ancillary troops landed at KOEPANG on 11 Sep to take control of more than 3,700 well armed and equipped Japanese. The landing itself and the seizing of control in the next two days was carried out as a normal military operation and every precaution was taken against possible Japanese treachery as the first parties entered the town. All enemy troops who might have been in a position to take hostile action against us were at once removed from the point of disembarkation, inspected to ensure they were disarmed and then confined to an area prescribed by the Australian commander. After this, parties of Japanese were immediately put to work on all kinds of tasks for which they could usefully be employed and our Australian men were used only in the handling of their own arms and ammunition and in similar tasks which could not safely be entrusted to the enemy. The following day every available Japanese barge was commandeered and further Japanese working parties were requisitioned, for hard labour in removing stores from the beach where they had been landed. This work was continued until all the cargo had been discharged. The next task was to cleanse the town from the unsanitary and filthy condition in which it had been left by the Japanese. Here again Japanese troops were employed under the unsympathetic eyes of our own Australian

Military Police. As soon as the town had been cleaned up and further steps taken to ensure the security of our own forces, Japanese working parties were again demanded and were used to the fullest possible extent. This policy has been followed every day since then and a large number of Japanese are compelled to perform all labouring and manual duties for our men: others are engaged in the heavy labour of repairing roads and bridges, in reconstructing the town water supply and other facilities and in filling in holes and craters on the aerodromes. Others again have been detailed to collect and concentrate in dumps all their arms, equipment and supplies. In fact, the greatest possible use of Japanese labour has been made. They have been worked hard and continuously and our men have carried out only those duties which could not be satisfactorily done by the Japanese. In consequence of this policy our troops have been relieved of so much manual labour and so many routine fatigues that they were able to concentrate upon normal garrison duties on the sixth day after disembarkation.

8. The case of TIMOR is typical of the treatment to which the Japanese have been subjected wherever our forces have landed and taken control. The enemy have been treated with strictness and severity and have been shown that we are their masters. They are now being made to realise that they must suffer the just penalty for their crimes and our officers and men, who have seen with their own eyes how much their comrades have suffered at Japanese hands for the last three years, may be relied upon to see to it that the ruthless and cruel "Sons of Heaven" are not allowed an inch of latitude. They will be made to pay in full the price of their misdeeds, those guilty of atrocities will be arrested and given their deserts and the remainder will be made to work hard and continuously not only to support themselves with the necessities of life but also in accordance with the exacting requirements of the forces that control them."